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1994 YEARBOOK

The Sporting News PRO FOOTBALL

SUPER BOWL XXIX MATCHUP: San Francisco 49ers vs. Miami Dolphins

TSN SERIES #3

DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 12, 1994

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PHOTO BY AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Cardinals Coach Buddy Ryan

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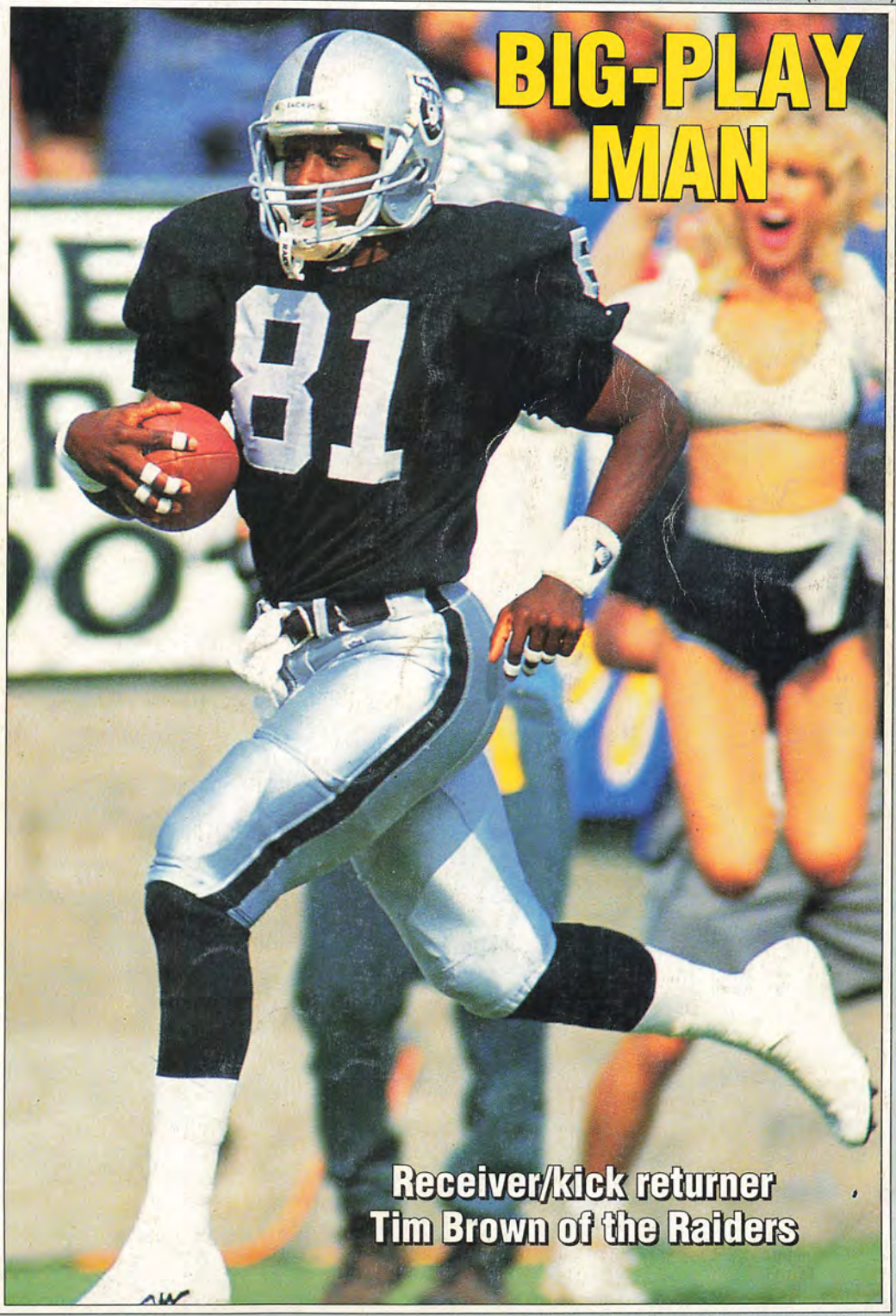

BIG-PLAY MAN

Receiver/kick returner Tim Brown of the Raiders

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The Sporting News

1994 PRO FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

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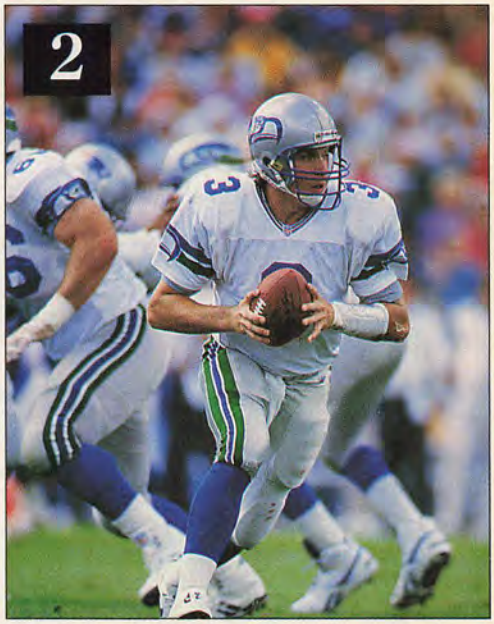
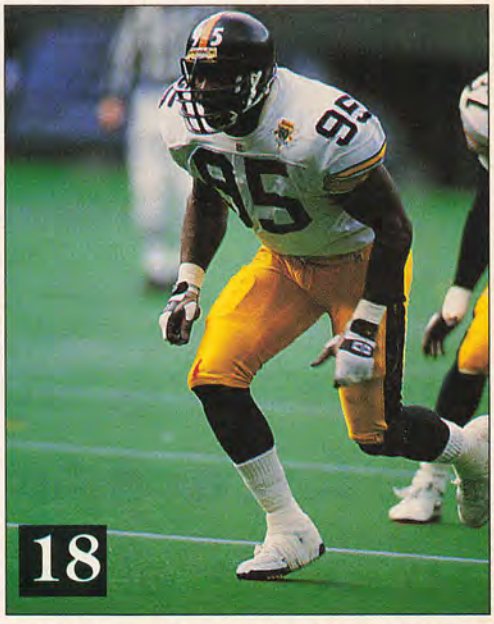


TOM DIPACE

The NFL is finding it hard to come up with good, young quarterbacks, but the Seahawks' Rick Mirer offers hope.



TOM DIPACE

Steelers tough guy Greg Lloyd can be found looking for a passer or a ballcarrier—or for a child to comfort.

Team previews were written by correspondents who cover the clubs weekly for The Sporting News. Their reports and the rosters and depth charts in this publication were prepared before training camp and may not reflect late changes and injuries.

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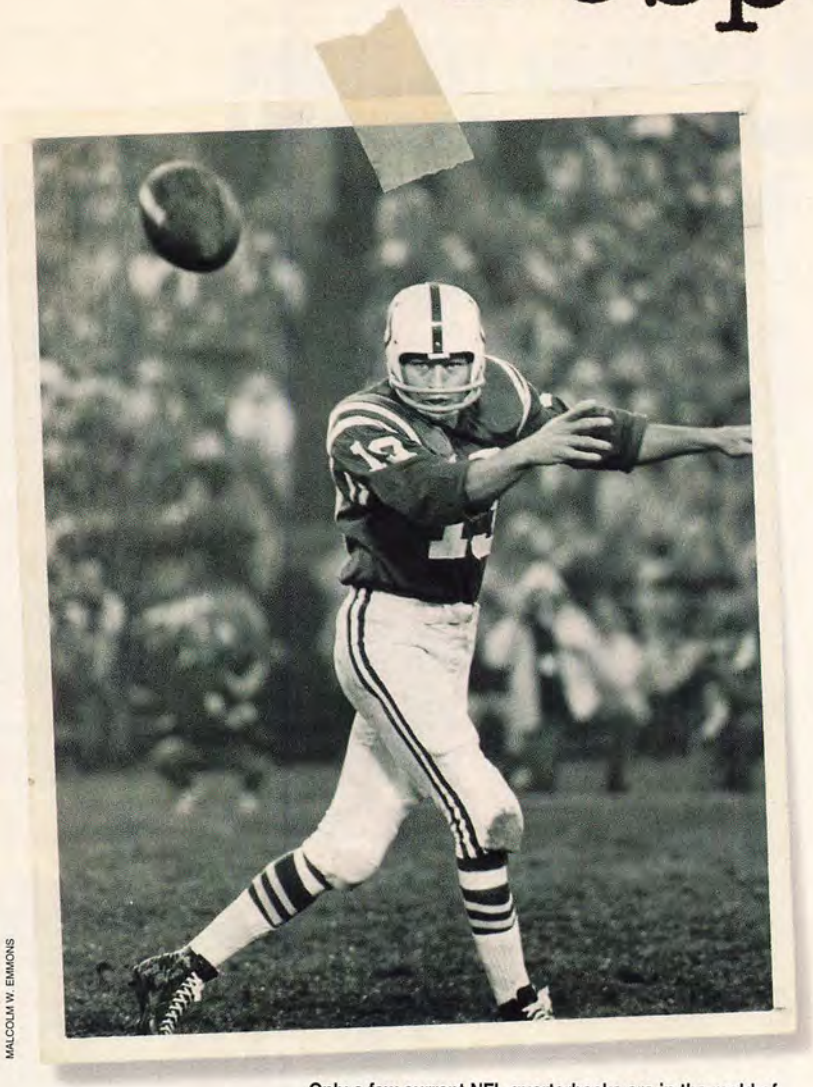
Desperately



MALCOLM W. EMMONS

Only a few current NFL quarterbacks are in the mold of former Colts star Johnny Unitas—and most are oldsters.

Big, strong, smart QBs are few and far between, so teams are scrambling to find the next star—or just grasping at straws

By PAUL ATTNER
The Sporting News

Where have you gone, Johnny U.? Where are the big, the strong, the bold, the gifted—athletes born to play quarterback in the NFL? What has happened to the mythical heroes who transformed the fantasies carved from childhood dreams into the real-life glamour of pro football's most formidable position? Is this going to be known as the LQB (lost quarterback) generation?

Look for Johnny Unitas in the NFL these days and only a few quarterbacks qualify. Mostly old men at that: Joe Montana, Dan Marino, John Elway, Jim Kelly, Warren Moon, Steve Young—all of whom are at least 32 years old. Young studs? The list begins and ends with Troy Aikman (27) and his two glistening Super Bowl rings. Little wonder, then, that the NFL has high hopes for fledglings Drew Bledsoe and Rick Mirer and its fingers crossed tightly for rookies Heath Shuler and Trent Dilfer. When you are a league virtually devoid of young stars at your most valuable position, it hardly makes for a delicious future.

"It kills the excitement of the game," said Bob Ferguson, director of football operations for the Denver Broncos. "It is like playing basketball without a point guard. When you don't have a guy who makes things happen, you have to rely on a running game and that taps into the excitement.

"A solution? Ask Jack and Janet Elway how they (produced son John). Because that is the answer. These quarterbacks have to come naturally; they aren't made."

The quarterback position has never been in a more sorry state than it is now. Clubs are desperate. How else can you explain why the New Orleans Saints traded for Jim Everett, who performed so horribly for the Rams last season that he kept being replaced by someone named T.J. Rubley? "I'm just looking to get better," said Saints Coach Jim Mora, who started NFL journeyman Wade Wilson at quarterback last year. But at least Wilson doesn't have happy feet like Everett, who once was considered a possible superstar until too many sacks and too many inconsistent performances turned him into a nervous wreck. Granted, New Orleans gave up only a seventh-round draft choice, but Everett, 31, is finished. Done. And yet the Saints believe they have upgraded the position.

Last spring, the Redskins dumped Mark Rypien, who just three seasons ago was MVP of the Super Bowl. He'll be replaced by the combination of John Friesz, who couldn't even beat out Rypien's former backup, Stan Humphries, in San Diego, and Shuler, the Tennessee flash who should be a college senior this fall. The closest Friesz or Shuler has been to a Super Bowl ring is admiring some-

Seeking Johnny U.

one else's, yet Rypien is gone because the Redskins are seeking a better answer at quarterback.

The first two years of NFL free agency have only served to accentuate the league's quarterback problems. Of the 28 NFL teams, only nine figure to begin the 1994 season with the same starter they had two seasons earlier. Since the end of last season, 10 first-stringers have either lost their jobs or left voluntarily for another team. Chicago fired Jim Harbaugh, who signed with Indianapolis, which traded Jeff George to Atlanta, which let Chris Miller go to Los Angeles to replace Everett, who was discarded to New Orleans, which the previous year had unloaded Bobby Hebert to Atlanta.

And what about Scott Mitchell, who began the 1993 season as an obscure backup to Marino in Miami and then had a few decent games after Marino got hurt? Mitchell wound up signing a $11 million contract with Detroit, which willingly lost Erik Kramer to Chicago (to replace Harbaugh) and Rodney Peete to Dallas (as a backup to Aikman, in place of Bernie Kosar, who went to Miami to replace Mitchell, who went . . . oh, you get the picture).

Mitchell knows, for the first time as a pro, that he is The Man.

"You need to have The Man to build around," Lions Coach Wayne Fontes said. "We haven't had that. In five years with Detroit, we had three guys who would walk up the hill each day to practice thinking they were Number 1, and they thought the same thing coming back down. Every day. We have never had a Dan Marino scaling that hill.

"That has been my biggest problem, all three thinking they were as good as the other guy. The team has to know who The Man is. Let me see if I can uncover this guy; maybe he is going to be Marino, Elway, Aikman. We will ride him, we will expect good things from him. This is The Man."

One school of thought, one embraced particularly by players, is that there may already be a lot of Scott Mitchells in the NFL; that is, players capable of being star quarterbacks but lacking only the opportunity to prove it. Free agency will put that theory to the ultimate test, of course, as any sub possessing even a hint of potential will be considered a prize prospect. But it almost seems that if you're a quarterback who can tie your shoelaces and chew gum at the same time, you'll get a chance somewhere in the NFL.

Oh, where *have* you gone, Johnny U.?

"All we want is a chance to play," said veteran quarterback Steve Beuerlein, who signed as a free agent with the Cardinals in April 1993 after stints with Dallas and the Raiders. "If you aren't a first-round choice, it is tough to break in. I was drafted in the fourth round and I feel fortunate now to be in a position where I can prove that I am one of the top quarterbacks in the league. That is the beauty of free agency."

Really, just how hard is it to play quarterback in the NFL?

"The competition level is not as big a jump as I probably expected," said New England's Drew Bledsoe, a rookie last season. Fine, Drew. So how do you explain what happened against Pittsburgh on December 5? No, we aren't talking about those five second-half interceptions that prompted one Boston columnist to describe Bledsoe's effort as the worst ever by a Patriot quarterback (and that's covering a lot of pathetic ground). No, we're talking about the fourth-and-one play at the Steelers' goal line with time running out. After consulting with his coach, Bill Parcells, during a timeout, Bledsoe tried a quarterback sneak. The play worked, except for one major thing—Bledsoe failed to stretch out his arms enough to break the plane of the end zone. No touchdown. New England lost, 17-14.

"I take full responsibility," Parcells said months later. "I should have told him to stretch out his arms when we were talking during the timeout. I didn't. It was my fault." Geez, and why not tell him to make sure he calls the snap count right and puts one foot ahead of the other when he runs, too, coach? There are some things you would think could be taken for granted. But not at quarterback.

"Sometimes," Mirer said, "stuff goes right over your head." Seattle's coaches occasionally looked into Mirer's eyes last season and saw, well, a blank. "You know that once in a while," Seahawks offensive coordinator Larry Kennan said, "he didn't have a clue."

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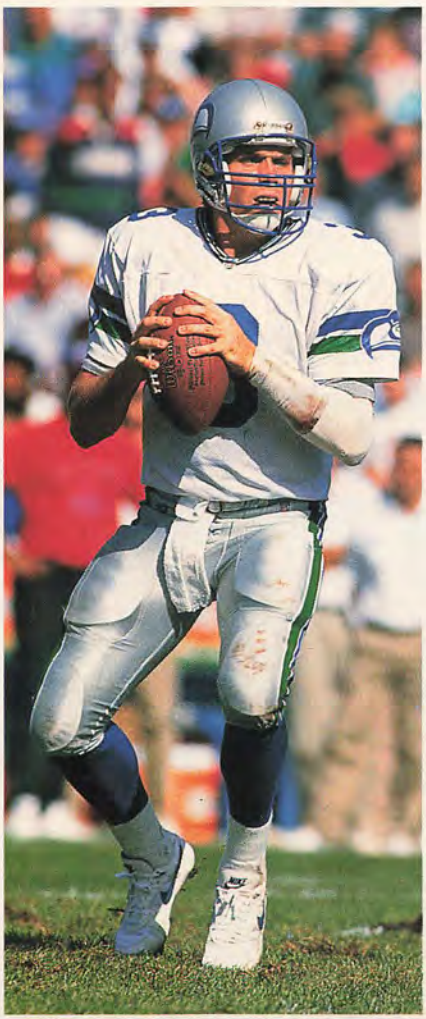

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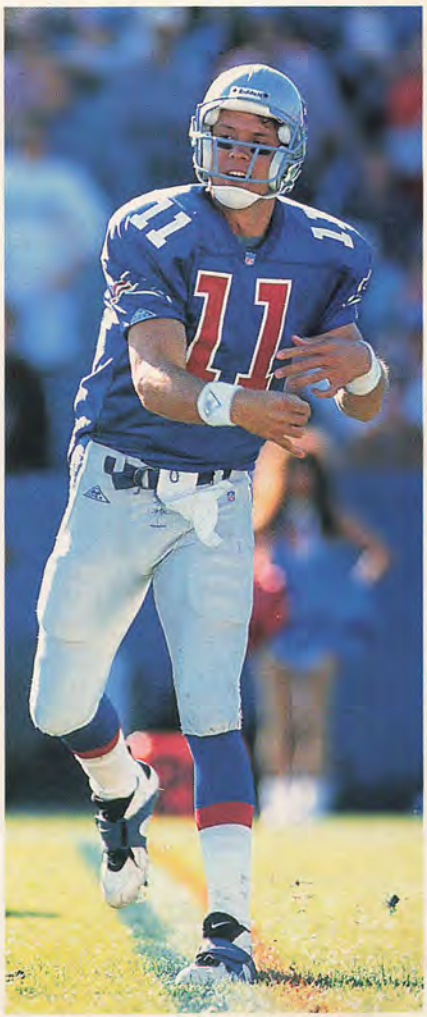


TOM DIPACE

The NFL, virtually devoid of young stars at its glamour position, has high hopes for Seattle's Rick Mirer (left) and the Patriots' Drew Bledsoe, who showed great potential in '93 despite so-so statistics.

Desperately Seeking Johnny U.

It is all part of what Parcells calls the long journey. All NFL quarterbacks begin it, but not all complete it. Many have the physical ability to make it big, but just being able to throw and run exceptionally well isn't nearly enough, not in a league where complex defenses—two-, three- and four-man rushes; four, five, six defensive backs; two, three, four linebackers—have forced offenses to become ever more complex. NFL offenses now use all sorts of combinations of receivers, running backs and tight ends, which creates an enormous burden for the quarterback to recognize, react and execute. All in just split-second time, too.

"This isn't Texaco," Parcells said. "You don't bring them into a gas station and change the oil and tires and give them a tune-up and expect them to be able to play. It is a journey that only few survive. Because mentally, they can't deal with what is asked of them."

Simply put, you have to be able to think to play quarterback in the NFL, and not that many quarterbacks have an elite football IQ. "You not only have to have the knowledge," Bledsoe said, "but you have to put it into action very quickly. From the time you get to the line, you have maybe five seconds to check things out, make your call and cadence, and then once the ball is snapped, you have another three to get it off. During all that time, you have to go through a checklist of 20-30 options, to audible if they do this or that, all kinds of stuff you have to be able to do and react to.

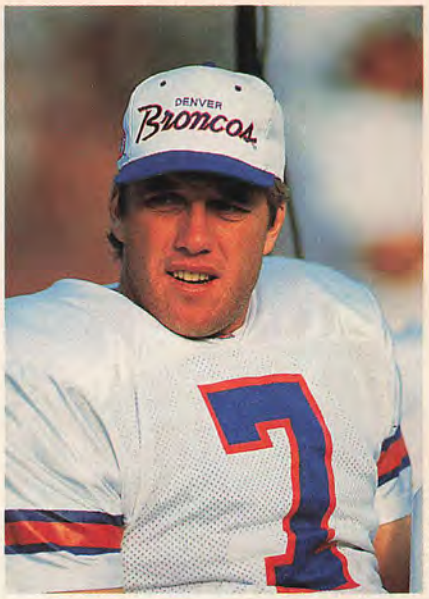
"The key is experience. The more you see it, the better you can handle it."

Seattle Coach Tom Flores, who once was a star quarterback himself in the old American Football League, sees what Mirer is going through and shakes his head in admiration. "In lots of ways it is tougher to play quarterback in this league than it once was," Flores said. "The physical part, that hasn't changed. You always have had to be tough and resilient and a leader. But now there are more things to prepare for, on and off the field. The pressure has grown tremendously, especially if you are the Number 1 choice. The expectations are unrealistic. There is so much hoopla made about you that you are expected to walk on water and save the franchise.

"With the exception of the head coach, quarterback is the most scrutinized position in team sports. It makes it tough to play it."

As difficult as the quarterback journey may be, the NFL would be delighted if more prospects started it. The problem is, the pros can't find enough bona fide candidates anymore. The position hasn't been the same since 1983, when Elway, Marino and Jim Kelly were among six quarterbacks taken in the first round of the draft. Since then, the pickings have been ridiculously slim. It took four more *years* for NFL teams to select another six quarterbacks in the first round. In 1988, 75 players were drafted before the first quarterback was taken. That's why such a fuss was made last year, when Bledsoe and Mirer popped up 1-2 in the draft, and why so much attention was paid to first-rounders Shuler and Dilfer this year. The latter two are considered to be a touch below Bledsoe and Mirer in talent, but they were still good enough to be among the first six players drafted last spring.

"If we could get two a year, we'll be OK," Green Bay Coach Mike Holmgren said, hopefully. But there soon will be 30 teams in the NFL, and since each team carries three quarterbacks, 90 will be needed overall. At the rate of two a year . . . even with Holmgren's optimism, the numbers don't add up. So who's the blame? Take your pick:



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

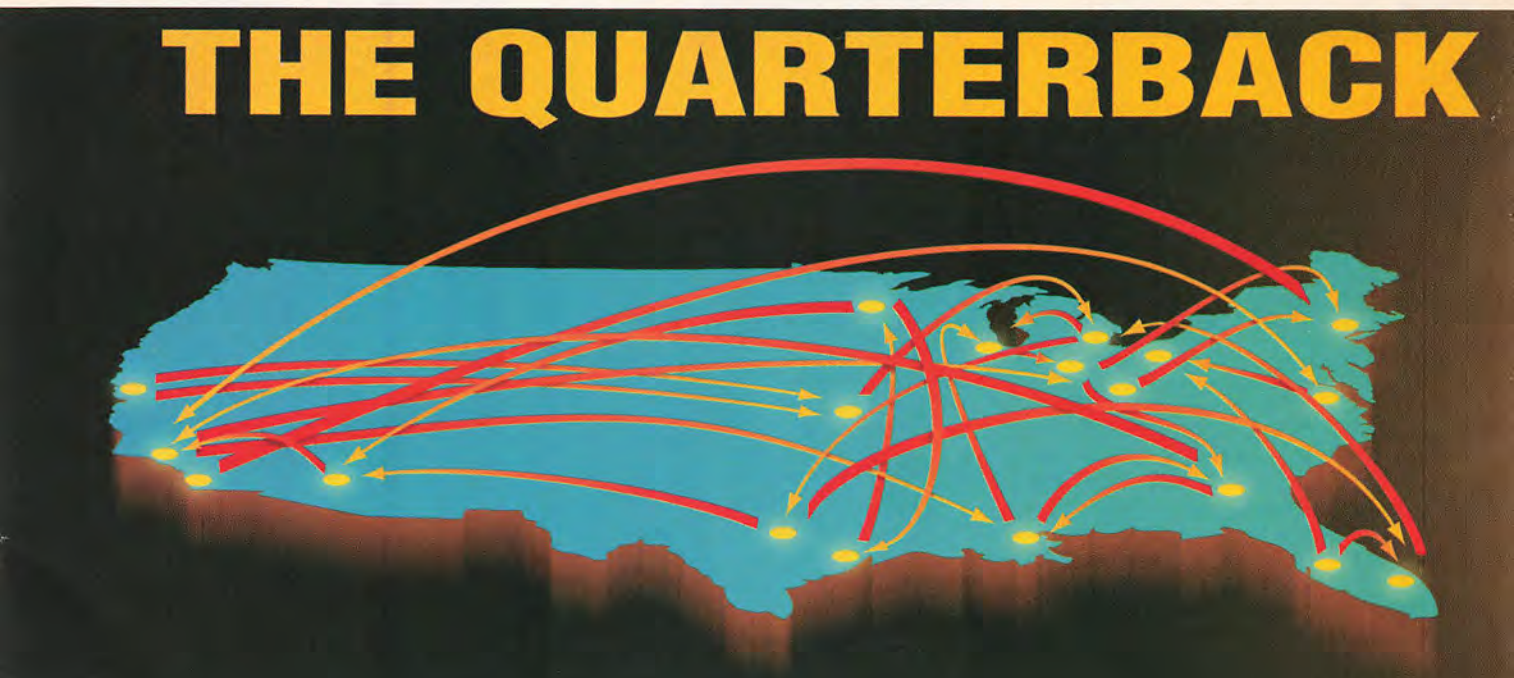
While Denver has a "natural" in John Elway, Seattle will try to reach pay dirt behind Rick Mirer (right), whose style was cramped in college.

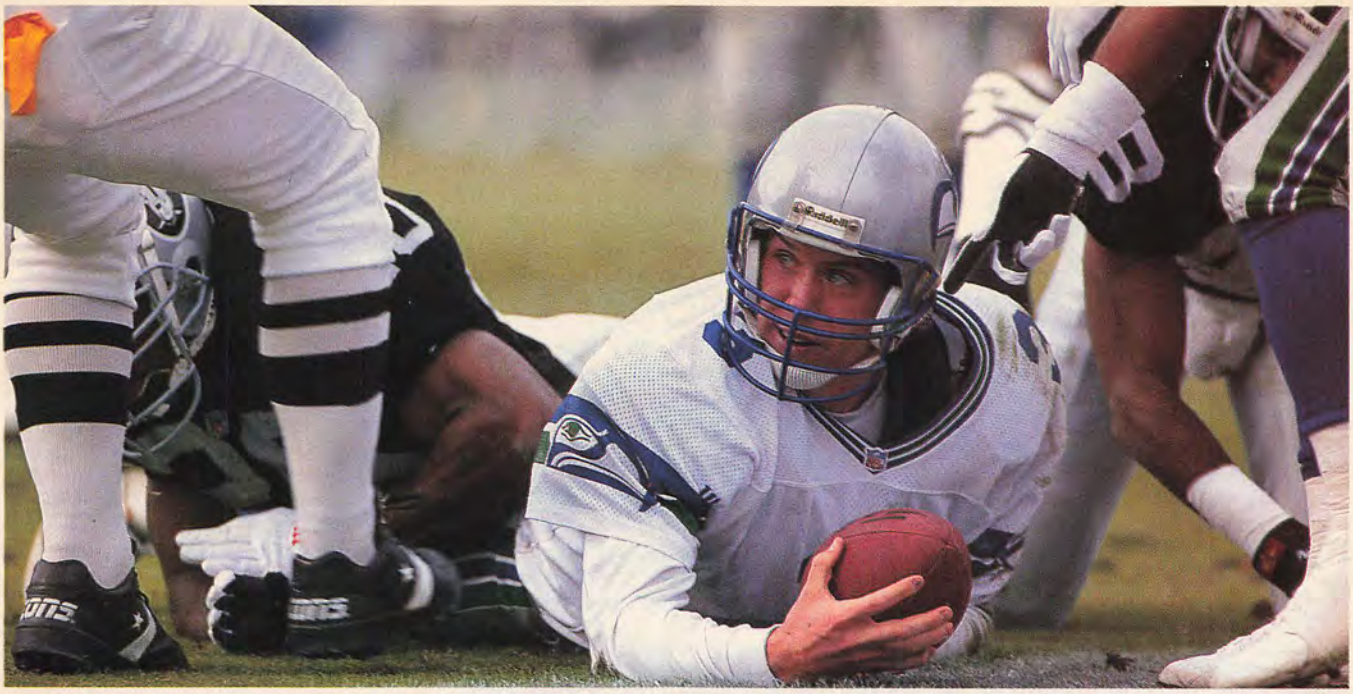
THE COLLEGES

With few exceptions, most college teams don't run offenses that prepare quarterbacks for the pro game. And as much as the NFL would love to see more college teams duplicate pro-type offenses, it just isn't going to happen. More colleges are throwing the ball than a decade ago, but most still aren't using traditional NFL sets. Shane Matthews, for example, is the leading passer in Southeastern Conference history, but the NFL scouts who watched him play a few years ago credited his success at Florida to Steve Spurrier's offensive system, not to Matthews, who went undrafted following his 1992 senior season.

"You have to look at their situation," Buffalo General Manager John Butler said. "They aren't trying to prepare players for us, they are trying to win and save their jobs."

THE QUARTERBACK





AL MESSERSCHMIDT

What the pros are seeing, according to Mike Allman, Seattle's director of player personnel, "are a lot of college teams who put their best runner or athlete at quarterback and let him throw and run. But you don't see a lot of classic seven-step drop-back passers." Even Mirer, who was mired in Notre Dame's option attack, agrees with Lou Holtz when the Irish coach said "we had to do what was best for Notre Dame to win, not what was best to prepare Rick Mirer for the NFL."

Mirer's abilities at least were recognized by pro scouts; consider Charlie Ward, the Heisman Trophy winner who was ignored in the 1994 NFL draft. Ward went undrafted, in large measure, because he wouldn't commit to a football career over a possible NBA career. But even if Ward had pledged allegiance to the NFL, he would have been a low-round pick at best. He is a classic great athlete whose natural abilities allowed him to overpower his college peers. However, at only 5-foot-11 and possessing a so-so arm, Ward hardly fits the physical prototype desired by the NFL.

"I still have to believe he can play in the NFL," said Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden, who has seen a bunch of his star quarterbacks (Casey Weldon, Peter Tom Willis) become mere backups in the NFL. "Charlie is a winner. He just needs a chance. They look at a lot of physical things, but how can you measure heart and desire?"

Bowden is one of few college coaches who hasn't had to scramble to find quarterbacks with at least some pro potential. But wander away from Florida and its fertile recruiting grounds, and the scene changes. "The whole level at every position is decreasing," Oklahoma State Coach Pat Jones said. "It is hard to find that prototype NFL quarterback. The quality isn't what it was seven or eight years ago, and that is eventually going to filter into the NFL, too."

Colleges are finding the talent pool shrinking at the same time the number of scholarships they can hand out is dwindling. The academic restrictions of Proposition 48 have limited the number of high school players eligible to play college football. Stiffer academic requirements at some schools weed out other players. And because of cutbacks in spring practice, players get fewer repetitions, which impedes their development. Last, but not least, the lure of big-money contracts has

Continued

TANGO

Since the end of the 1992 season—and the start of liberalized free agency—the NFL has become the scene of a tumultuous shuffle at quarterback. Here are the major players and changes involved over the last two years in this football version of musical chairs:

PLAYER	OLD TEAM	NEW TEAM
1. Steve Beuerlein	Dallas	Arizona
2. Steve Bono	San Francisco	Kansas City
3. Chris Chandler	Arizona	L.A. Rams
4. Steve DeBerg	Tampa Bay	Miami
5. Boomer Esiason	Cincinnati	N.Y. Jets
6. Jim Everett	L.A. Rams	New Orleans
7. John Friesz	San Diego	Washington
8. Jeff George	Indianapolis	Atlanta
9. Jim Harbaugh	Chicago	Indianapolis

PLAYER	OLD TEAM	NEW TEAM
10. Bobby Hebert*	New Orleans	Atlanta
11. Jeff Hostetler	N.Y. Giants	L.A. Raiders
12. Bernie Kosar*	Dallas	Miami
13. Erik Kramer	Detroit	Chicago
14. Dave Krieg	Kansas City	Detroit
15. Jim McMahon	Minnesota	Arizona
16. Chris Miller	Atlanta	L.A. Rams
17. Scott Mitchell	Miami	Detroit
18. Joe Montana	San Francisco	Kansas City

PLAYER	OLD TEAM	NEW TEAM
19. Warren Moon	Houston	Minnesota
20. Rodney Peete*	Detroit	Dallas
21. Mark Rypien*	Washington	Cleveland
22. Sean Salisbury	Minnesota	Houston
23. Jay Schroeder*	L.A. Raiders	Cincinnati
24. Vinny Testaverde	Tampa Bay	Cleveland
25. Jack Trudeau	Indianapolis	N.Y. Jets
26. Steve Walsh	New Orleans	Chicago
27. Wade Wilson	Atlanta	New Orleans

*Former starter, now a backup with his new team. Kosar was a starter with Cleveland but was released during the 1993 season and signed by Dallas as a reserve.

Desperately Seeking Johnny U.

resulted in more and more quarterbacks ending their college careers prematurely and heading for the NFL, often at the very time they should be developing mentally. They're showing up in the pros as mere babes, with far less playing experience than their predecessors had. In 1994, Shuler and Dilfer each gave up his final college season to turn pro. Last year, Bledsoe did. In 1991 and '92, respectively, Todd Marinovich and Tommy Maddox each gave up his final *two* seasons of college eligibility to enter the NFL.

"It takes two, three, four years to learn how to play quarterback in this league, but if you come out early and sit instead of staying in school and playing out your career, you aren't learning anything," former NFL quarterback Joe Theismann said.

Washington Coach Norv Turner, considered one of the premier quarterback tutors in the league, worries about the surge of underclass defections. "Of the four top prospects the last two years, three have been juniors," he said. "I understand why they are coming out, but they are so young for a spot that demands so much."

Parcells said one of Bledsoe's problems last year was his youth. "Rick Mirer was 23, Drew was 20 when he came out," the Patriots' coach said. "Rick was so much more mature, and that gave him an edge."

And then there is. . . .

SPECIALIZATION

"Kids are playing other sports at an earlier age and they are specializing in these sports and it is hurting football," Redskins General Manager Charley Casserly said. "Quarterback is a glamour position, but that doesn't seem to be enough anymore. When I was coaching high school football 18 years ago, you could see it happening. Kids were playing basketball, baseball, soccer."

Until his senior year in high school, Mirer was closer to learning the challenges of a curveball than a down-and-out pattern. In the last five years, Bowden has signed, and then lost, two star quarterback prospects to baseball.

"It's a concern," Bowden said, "but you can't blame the young man for doing what he thinks is best for his future. But it's got to hurt both the colleges and the pros if we lose some of these real talented quarterbacks to other sports."

Mirer said that when he was growing up "I played everything I could. But it's not like that anymore. More and more kids are doing one sport and they want to be the next Shaq or the next home run hitter and that's all they want to do. But at 15, how do you know you will grow big enough to be a basketball player? What if you don't grow?"

Parcells saw a nice chunk of NFL talent on the floor as he watched the Final Four last April. "We are losing players to basketball," he said. "The dunk has something mystical about it. There were great-looking athletes out there and (the NFL) won't be seeing them.

"Toss in something else, too. Inner-city schools can't afford football anymore. It's too expensive. Programs are closing down; they can't get coaches or equipment. We are losing kids because of that, too."

If you subtract just one elite quarterback from each draft because of all these reasons, it has a major impact on the NFL. But the league isn't blameless, either. Even when they get decent quarterback prospects, teams don't always do enough to develop them, which leads us to. . . .

BAD COACHING

"The NFL takes quarterback play for granted," said Lee Corso, a former college

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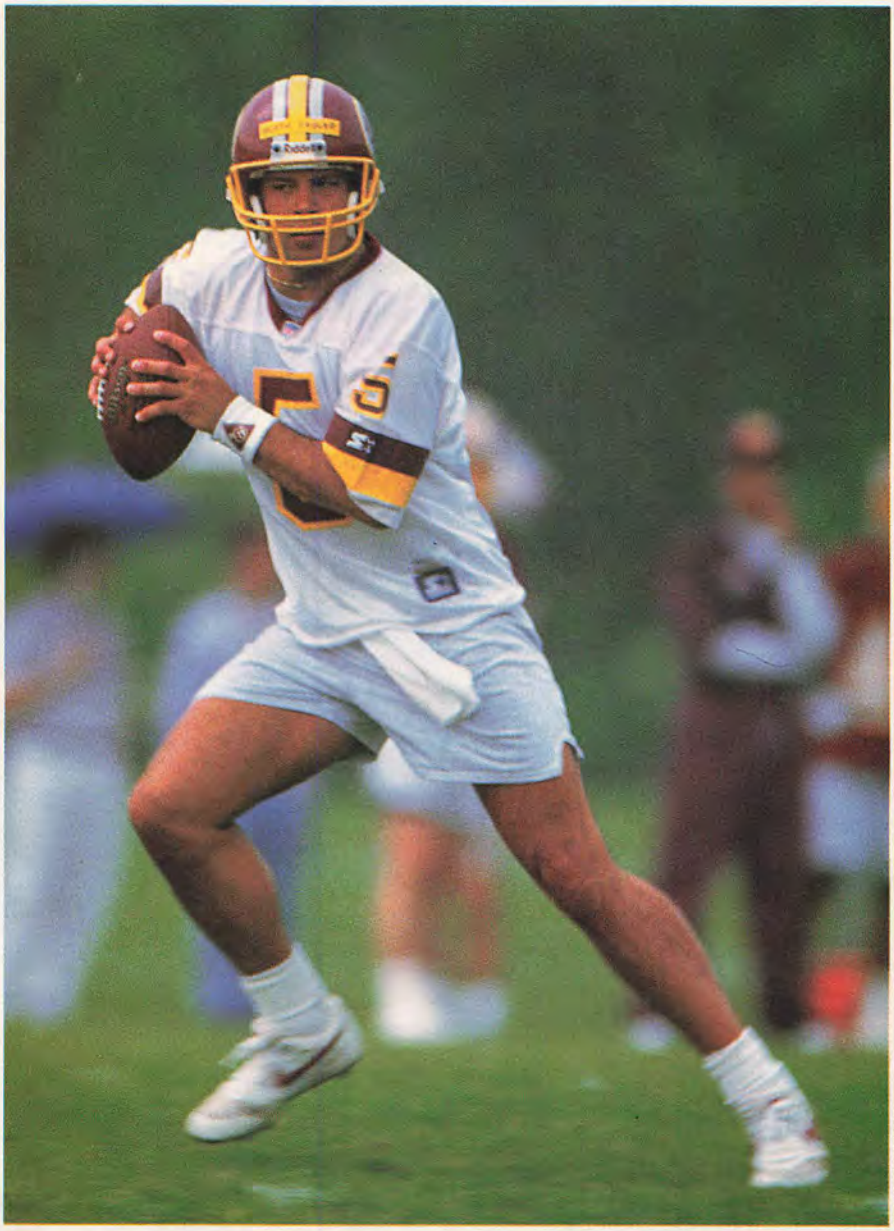

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

Redskins rookie Heath Shuler, who left school early, figures to get a crash course in signal-calling under the watchful eye of new Coach Norv Turner (right), known as a first-rate tutor of quarterbacks.

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DEPT SNF94

Desperately Seeking Johnny U.

coach. "They don't develop quarterbacks, they trade for them. They have this mentality, 'He can't play for them but he can play for me.' That's b.s. It is the worst-coached position in the pros because they don't put an emphasis on it. In college football, it is the best-coached position."

Theismann agrees. "The pros think these kids know certain things when they get to this level, but that is a misconception," he said. "We don't have any David Leadbetter (a pro golf instructor) teaching out there. Half the teams don't have a quarterback coach, but they will have a tight end coach. They expect the offensive coordinator to also be the quarterback coach and that baffles me. It's the most important position on the field and they neglect it."

That trend may be changing, if ever so slightly. Fontes hired a quarterback coach (Tom Moore) just to take care of Mitchell this season. Bobby Ross did the same in San Diego (Dwaine Painter). The Redskins hired Turner, in part, because of the reputation he earned as a quarterback guru while working with Aikman in Dallas. Casserly knew he would draft a quarterback in 1994, and he wanted an expert ready to teach him.

But New England (Ray Perkins) and Seattle (Kennan) decided that their offensive coordinators also were best suited to instruct their young quarterbacks. Neither team has a quarterback coach. Which leads us to. . . .

IMPATIENCE

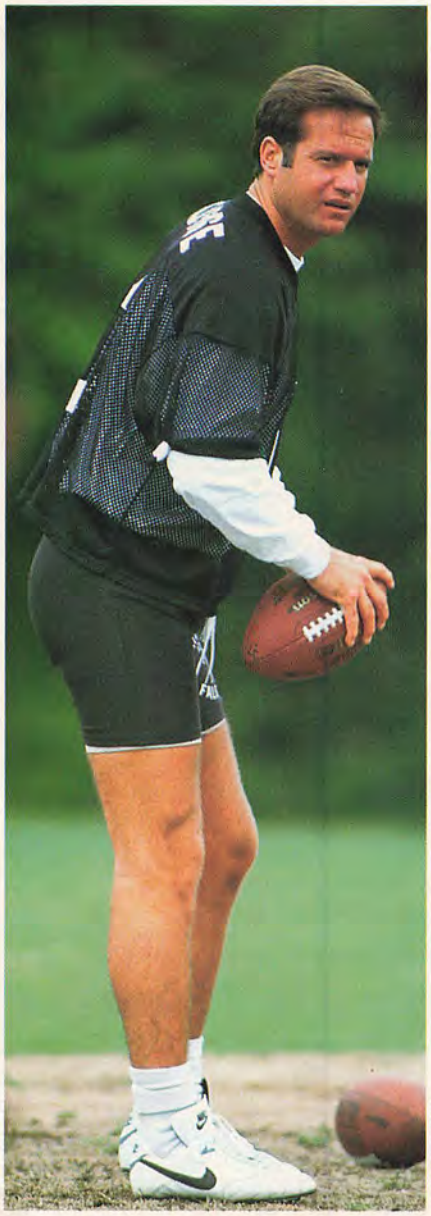
It once was the conventional wisdom that it took four to five years to develop an NFL quarterback. However, in the era of free agency, no team dares wait that long anymore. "You have to find out quickly whether someone can play or you move on," Butler said. "You wait four or five years and they can leave because of free agency."

So, at the game's toughest position, prospects are rushed along. Flores and Parcells claim that they didn't want to start their prize rookies last season but did so anyway after determining that no one else was better. Of course, when your team is bad enough to draft high enough to be able to choose a quarterback, one of the first spots that usually needs to be filled is, well, quarterback. Then, when you start the youngster in a game, you hope what happened to Jim Plunkett doesn't happen to him. Plunkett got so beat up in his first few seasons in New England that he wasn't able to resurrect his career and achieve success until years later, with the Raiders.

One factor in playing a young quarterback is there may not be enough good players around him to allow him to sparkle. Or maybe the system he's playing in is not suited for his talents. As wonderful as Joe Montana is, there's no question he flourished, at least in part, because of Bill Walsh's offensive philosophy. So maybe the right guy is in the wrong place at the wrong time (Plunkett), a situation that drives teams to sign other clubs' possible mistakes, hoping, in essence, to turn ugly ducklings into Pro Bowlers. When you look around the league this season, consider these projects:

• Jeff George. Once viewed as potentially the next great quarterback in the NFL, his career went nowhere in Indianapolis. George was one hometown boy who shouldn't have come home. He wound up hating the fans, the media, even his own teammates. His work habits were awful and his selfish approach was resented by other Colts. Still, George has a release that reminds scouts of Marino and an arm that reminds them of El-

Continued



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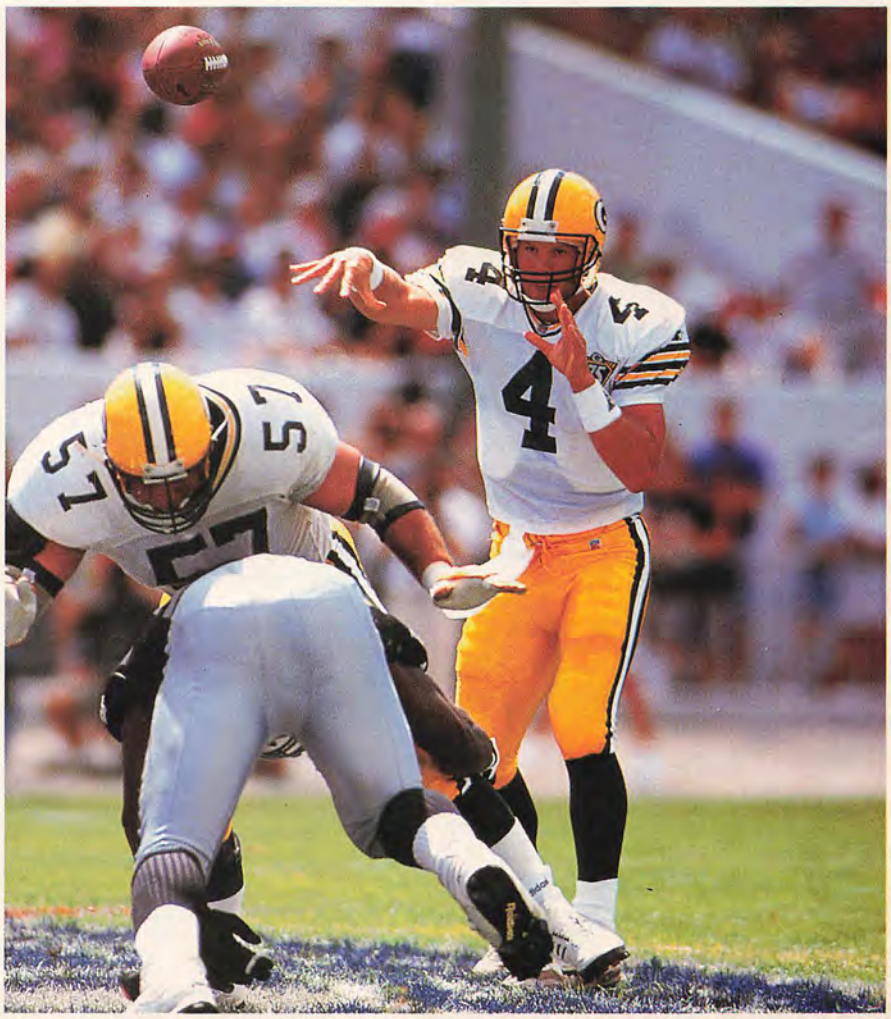

TOM DIPACE

Atlanta's Jeff George (above) and Green Bay's Brett Favre have shown promise at times, but both continue to be viewed as "projects."

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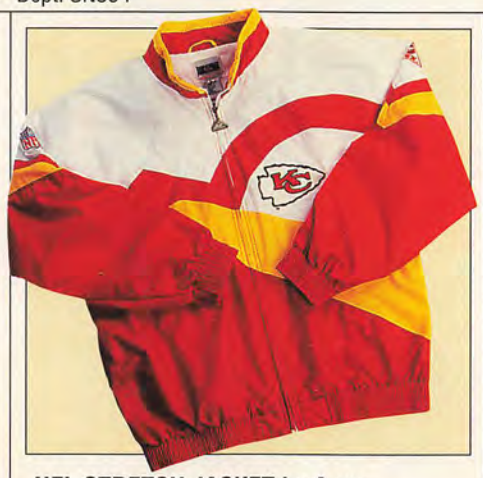

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TOM DIPACE

TOM DIPACE

Bill Parcells uses "great" sparingly but says it applies to Dan Marino (left) and Joe Montana.

way, so when Atlanta traded for him in the off-season, no one thought it was a gamble.

"Can he convince his teammates that he is out for someone other than himself?" Beuerlein asked. "That has been the rap on him. He has to prove to them he can win, that he doesn't care if he throws 50 passes or 10 passes."

Indianapolis General Manager Jim Irsay, who arranged the trade with Atlanta in 1990 that enabled the Colts to draft George No. 1 that year, was reluctant to give up on him. But Bill Tobin is running the Colts' football operations now, and Tobin chose instead to go with Harbaugh, whom he drafted in the first round for Chicago in 1987. Irsay admits that if George ultimately flourishes in Atlanta, it will be a difficult pill for him to swallow.

"These potential franchise quarterbacks are so hard to come by that it would be frustrating to spend four years with him and see him have a great career somewhere else," Irsay said. "You have to look at the circumstances surrounding Jeff. We were 28th in (rushing) last year. So much depends on the organization, the supporting cast. He's been injured and he had that holdout last year, which set him back. But when he came back, he had a commitment I've never seen before. I think he has the physical talent to be a great one, but he has to be able to overcome adversity."

• Vinny Testaverde. A former Heisman winner who was drafted first overall in 1987 by Tampa Bay, Testaverde's development with the Bucs was hindered by a combination of a poor supporting cast and his own poor decision-making. Still, he's an impressive physical specimen (6-5, 215) with a wonderful arm, good enough to persuade Cleveland to waive Kosar and turn the franchise's future over to him. But can Testaverde think fast enough and well enough to finish off the journey Parcells spoke of?

"We think he can or we wouldn't have gone with him," Browns Coach Bill Belichick said. "People haven't seen the real Vinny yet. He played under some adverse circumstances with Tampa Bay and survived. We hope we can provide him with a strong supporting cast that will allow him to flourish."

• Brett Favre. After a strong season for the Packers as a second-year pro in 1992, Favre became an interception machine last year, forced passes and played out of control. Holmgren, a noted quarterback tutor who helped Montana in San Francisco, believes Favre can become a great quarterback once he understands that he can't always make heroic plays. But others aren't quite so sure.

"He's erratic, and that is the way he always has played, even in college," Seattle's Allman said. "I don't see him changing a great deal."

So the key with Favre is coaching, and Holmgren expects improvement from him as the growing-up process continues. But if the lessons don't click in, mark Favre down as another Johnny U. dropout.

At times last season, it appeared NFL scouts had blown it in their evaluations of Mirer and Bledsoe. From a statistical standpoint, neither was impressive. Of the 16 qualifiers in individual passing in the AFC last season (minimum 224 attempts), Mirer ranked 14th, Bledsoe 16th. But if their performances are isolated, there is reason to expect greatness. Mirer, for example, threw for more yards than any rookie in NFL history even though Seattle led the AFC in rushing and he was sacked an horrendous 47 times, most in the league. Bledsoe was hurt early in the season and didn't return to the lineup until after being chewed out by Parcells for lackluster work habits. But the Patriots won their last four games as Bledsoe passed for eight touchdowns and tossed just two interceptions. He ended his rookie season by throwing a beautiful 36-yard TD pass into the outstretched arms of Michael Timpson in overtime in the Patriots' final game, a 33-27 victory over Miami.

"I'm hesitant to use the word great," Parcells said. "Montana is great. Marino is great. They've proven it over time. Let's say Drew has the ability to be better than good and leave it at that until he proves it." As gifted as Bledsoe is, with his marvelous arm, fine accuracy and physical stature, he's still a bit laid-back, a bit immature. "He thinks he still is on scholarship," said Parcells, who notes that despite Bledsoe's diligent off-season work, he still doesn't know quite how to prepare himself for the rigors of the pro game.

"I think Rick and I have shown you can be competitive on this level in your first year," Bledsoe said. "It takes a lot of work. You have to be fairly talented and fairly quick mentally to pick up all the stuff in a short period of time.

"You don't need four or five years. You better be starting by the second year or something is wrong. I definitely wanted to play right away and I am glad I did, even if it was rough at times. But I thought I made a lot of progress. I know that things will be a lot clearer for me this season. I have the tools to do the job in this league; it just comes down to how hard I want to work, how much time I want to put in."

Mirer's rookie performance surprised those scouts who had considered him far below Bledsoe in potential. "I was wrong on Rick," San Diego General Manager Bobby Beathard said. "They did a good job of putting him in a position where he didn't have to carry the full load. Now he has shown an ability to win and he has a good feeling about himself."

Mirer, however, is far from impressed with his '93 accomplishments, even if Seattle did win four more games than it did the year before. "I didn't feel I played particularly well," he said. "So when they talk about a sophomore jinx, I laugh. If you hardly were flawless as a rookie, what can you mess up the second year? I've progressed in the off-season so much. I might have known the routes of my first three receivers last year but not the next two; now I have a better idea of what they all are doing. (The coaches) were smart; they didn't try to throw a lot at me. They let me rely on my physical ability until I had time to get all this down."

Mirer has more of an impromptu style than Bledsoe. He runs and scrambles more and relies more heavily on his fire and leadership abilities. What intrigues him is that in the 1994 draft, the Redskins opted to take Shuler, a Mirer look-alike, over Dilfer, a pure passer from the Bledsoe mold.

"Maybe," he said with a knowing grin, "the NFL learned something about quarterbacks from what I did last year. But check with me 10 years from now. One season doesn't mean anything."

And that's why the NFL really doesn't know if Bledsoe and Mirer eventually will become another Johnny U. or another Vinny T. Do they have the mental abilities to finish off the journey? The NFL better hope so. But as the man says, check with us in 10 years. ◆

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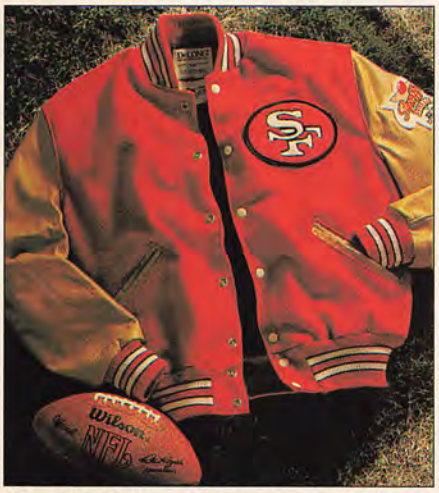

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DEPT SN494

A QUARTERBACK'S BEST FRIEND

Offensive left tackles win accolades and big bucks if they provide protection

By MICHAEL BRADLEY

Free-lance writer

John (Jumbo) Elliott thought Bill Parcells was just trying to motivate him. No mistakes would be tolerated, the former coach of the New York Giants once told his hulking left offensive tackle. Since Parcells has been famous for his demanding ways, first with New York and now with the New England Patriots, Elliott thought his coach's edict was another means of keeping a player sharp; a way to appeal to his pride and all that.

BOB ROSATO

Giants veteran Jumbo Elliott claims the ability to play his position requires skills that are the equivalent to the art of hitting a baseball. Elliott also says a thick skin is helpful in his line of work.

Elliott couldn't convince himself whether Parcells was being serious. During the course of 75 snaps in a game, quarterbacks will throw incompletions, running backs will hit a hole too slowly and receivers will drop passes. But left tackles can't mess up. Should they let the National Football League's most dangerous hybrid—the powerful, lightning-fast pass rusher—blast in from right end and batter a quarterback's blind side, the resulting collision could yield a sack, fumble or serious injury. After the carnage, everyone knows who was responsible.

Today, Elliott knows his former coach was right. Left tackles have to be perfect.

"To play left tackle, you have to have thick skin," said the 6-foot-7, 305-pound Elliott, who is entering his seventh season with the Giants. "Some of the guys you play against are phenomenal. You watch other sports like basketball, and you see a great center get beaten left and right. As long as he gets his points, he has a great game.

"I heard Ted Williams say that hitting a baseball is the hardest thing to do in sports. I would rank playing left tackle in the NFL right up there. A baseball isn't going to hit you very often—or very hard."

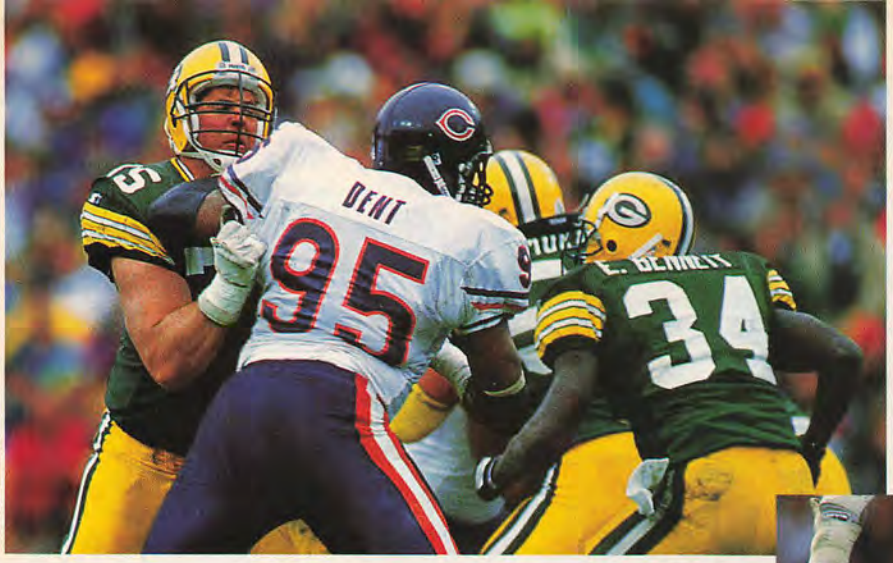
The left tackle usually lines up without the cover of a tight end, or "on air" in NFLspeak. He doesn't get too much help protecting the passer, because coaches don't want to limit their passing schemes by keeping a running back or receiver in to help block. Do it yourselves, the headphones say. So, left tackles get down into their lefthanded stances (most of them are righthanded) and try to figure out whether Bruce Smith is going to bull-rush this time. Or will he take an outside route? It's like that every time a passing play is called. For the good ones, it's a challenge they relish and a battle they usually win.

But not always. A left tackle could get beat early in a game, or during a last-minute drive. Or, he may not get beat at all, if he's lucky. But when he does, and the quarterback is writhing on the ground, clutching his shoulder or wondering where the ball went, everything else is forgotten. No one remembers the steamrolling run block the left tackle threw that freed Johnny Halfback in the second quarter, nor do they recollect the great block that kept a charging end away from the quarterback early in the third period.

"That's the way it is," said Ken Ruettgers, who enters his 10th season as the Green Bay Packers' left tackle. "It's not fair, but it's reality. Of course you get upset and discouraged when you give up that one sack, but you have to focus on the other 74 plays where you did your job.

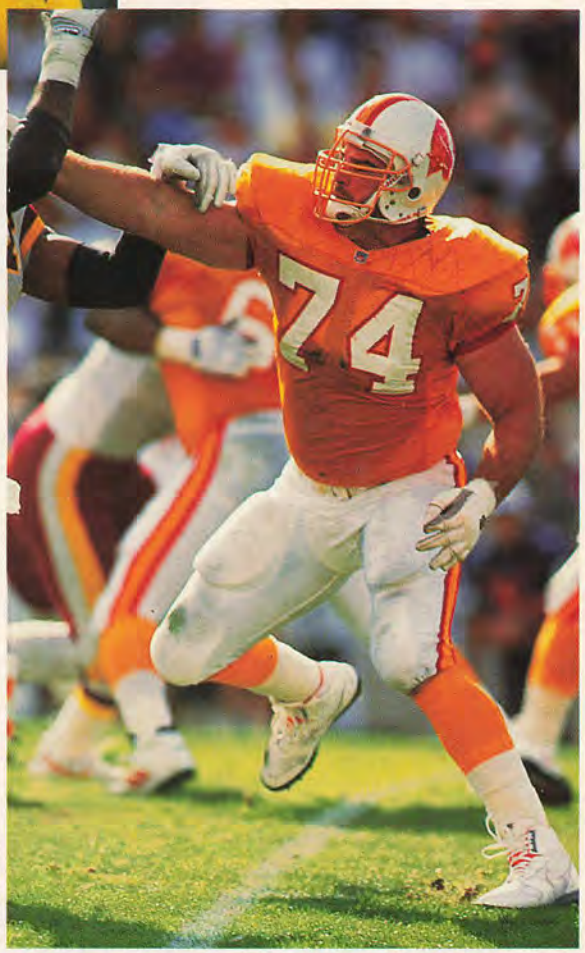
"I can't think of a position on the offensive line as challenging as left tackle. You are playing great players week in and week out. If a defensive lineman takes a play or two or three off, it's not going to upset the apple cart. If a left tackle takes a play off, he could get the quarterback killed."

Most left tackles point to outside linebacker Lawrence Taylor's 1981 debut with the Giants as the pivotal moment in the history of the left tackle. There were always great pass rushers in the NFL (Gino Marchetti, Willie Davis, Deacon Jones), but Taylor's size and overwhelming speed were something new. As the 1980s progressed, left tackles found themselves matched



THE SPORTING NEWS

Green Bay's Ken Ruettgers (left, number 75) feels the pressure to stay on the field without a respite, lest his absence pose a threat to the quarterback's health. Tampa Bay's Paul Gruber, a six-year pro, contends that the left-tackle spot demands a player whose talents are a "combination of everything"—in other words, a rare mix.



SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

against more and more ends and outside linebackers with enough power and quickness to rush inside or swoop outside. Since most offenses are righthanded (meaning they usually put their tight end on the right side of the ball and direct most of their attack that way), defenses countered by putting their top pass rushers over the left tackle.

"The most dramatic change I've seen in the 20 years I've been in the league is the tremendous increase in the size and speed of people playing on the defensive line," Kansas City Chiefs Coach Marty Schottenheimer said. "It's remarkable to see guys who are 280 or 290 pounds moving the way they do.

"You need to give your quarterback a sense of security. If a defense can get to his blind side enough, he will be less effective."

So, the left-tackle profile changed. Size remained important, but agility, footwork and versatility grew in significance. The thought of a 275-pounder hitting a quarterback from behind at full speed nauseated coaches. Since it was nearly impossible to get a guard outside quickly enough to provide help, teams had to find left tackles capable of waging—and winning—the man-to-man battles. San Francisco line coach Bobb McKittrick argues that the left and right tackles are equally important, partly because 49ers quarterback Steve Young is lefthanded, but mostly because San Francisco isn't as righthanded as most other clubs. McKittrick seems to be in the minority, however.

"You can't have a good offense without a good man on that side," New York Giants Coach Dan Reeves said. "Quarterbacks are making a lot of money, but they can't execute without a good left tackle."

During the last two years, NFL teams, media and fans have grown to understand that. Compensation and attention have grown considerably, and left tackles are now appreciated as vital components of a successful team. Following the 1992 season, three players at the position were designated franchise players, with five more labeled transition players. After the 1993 campaign, two left tackles were tabbed franchise men and three others transition players.

Paychecks are growing rapidly, too. Thirteen NFL left tackles will make at least $1.5 million this season, and nine of them have long-term contracts that average more than $2 million a year. In 1992, 27 NFL players were members of the $2 million club, and none was a left tackle. Thanks to free agency, the position has taken a decided turn uptown. Highlights include Will Wolford's $1.95 million salary with Indianapolis, Luis Sharpe's $1.806 million deal in Arizona and Lomas Brown's $1.820 million contract with Detroit. Miami's Richmond Webb, who will earn about $700,000 this season, has been offered a multi-year contract extension worth about $2.6 million annually, which would make him the league's highest-paid lineman.

"There are 28 teams in the league and maybe five or six premier left tackles," said Tom Heckert, the Dolphins' director of player personnel. "Another 10 are solid, and the rest are shaky when you go against somebody like Bruce Smith. If you have a good one, you keep him."

In order to preserve the quarterback's mental (and physical) health, NFL coaches and general managers scour the college ranks for left tackles. The job description is universal: athletic, nimble-footed leviathan needed to protect quarterbacks from rhinos like Bruce Smith and battering rams like Derrick Thomas. That classified entry doesn't draw too many resumes. Few 300-pounders are quick enough, and not enough 275-pounders are strong enough. "You have to find a player with a combination of everything," said Paul Gruber, Tampa Bay's six-year veteran left tackle. "Not that many players coming out of college have everything they need to play the position." Even when a team finds the right physical combination, there could be a problem inside the helmet. How many guys can watch the quarterback spit up the football while being rammed from behind by the guy they were supposed to block?

"Left tackle is a high-risk position," said Wolford, who made headlines when he bolted Buffalo for Indianapolis' big free-agent offer after the 1992 season. "The exposure you usually get is bad, so you don't see a whole lot of people volunteering to play the position."

While right tackles must contend with players like Green Bay's Reggie White and Kansas City's Neil Smith, the roster of opponents for the man on the left is deeper and more imposing. "If a team doesn't have a premier pass rusher on the right, they'll get one soon," Ruettgers said. There are plenty right now, like Smith, Thomas, San Diego's Leslie O'Neal, Arizona's Clyde Simmons, Chicago's Richard Dent, Atlanta's Chris Doleman and Detroit's Pat Swilling—to name a few. Left tackles are like cornerbacks, forced to face star opponents every week. When they succeed, few people notice. When they are burned, everyone knows it.

Ruettgers and Washington tackle Jim

Continued

BEST FRIEND

Lachey often discuss the left tackle's unique plight. They played against each other in the 1985 Rose Bowl (Ruettgers' Southern California Trojans beat Lachey's Ohio State Buckeyes) and share Leigh Steinberg as their agent. The two consider themselves part of the blue-collar, offensive-line fraternity, but their bond with left tackles is even stronger.

"When I meet other left tackles at the Pro Bowl, we all compare notes and try to learn from each other," said Lachey, who missed the 1993 season with a knee injury. "I want my team to be successful, but I'm pulling for every left tackle out there."

MITCHELL LAYTON

Jim Lachey admits that the Pro Bowl is a time to compare notes with his rivals—and that he pulls for "every left tackle out there."

Richmond Webb had all of one year's experience playing left tackle when Miami selected him in the first round of the 1990 NFL draft and gave him the starting job at the position. Webb had spent his first three years at Texas A&M playing left guard, before moving over a spot for his senior season. The 6-6, 302-pounder certainly had the build and quickness for the spot, but his pass-blocking skills were suspect. If Texas A&M threw the ball 10 times a game, it was considered an aerial circus. Skeptics wondered if Miami Coach Don Shula was losing it. Here he was, entrusting a rookie with the task of protecting the blind side of franchise quarterback Dan Marino, who probably beefed up his life insurance before the start of the '90 campaign.

The extra premiums proved to be a waste of money, as Webb went on to earn Pro Bowl honors as a rookie. In fact, he has earned Pro Bowl mention in each of his four seasons. "Richmond was such a gifted athlete that he was able to pick the position up quickly," Heckert said. But athletic ability doesn't always guarantee success at left tackle, particularly among rookies. Experience and overall mental toughness are equally important.

"Offensive line is probably the hardest position to come in and play, and left tackle is the hardest position on the offensive line," Denver Broncos Coach Wade Phillips said. "Once you lose your confidence, and get beaten a few times, you'll think you're not a good player. I've seen it happen."

The opportunities for failure are overwhelming, and some coaches prefer to break first-year linemen in at guard or right tackle, before moving them to the left side. College offenses don't usually put a player at left or right tackle exclusively. They prefer strong- or weak-side configurations, in which a tackle could line up on either side. Adjusting from that life to the world of full-time left tackle can be enervating.

"There are so many things you're trying to learn that first year," Webb said. "The system is tough enough, but then you have to worry about who you'll be going up against. You have to concentrate and have confidence in yourself when you're blocking guys you've watched on TV. It's somewhat of a fantasy."

Not that blocking left defensive ends like Reggie White or Neil Smith is easy, mind you. A look back at the film from the Philadelphia Eagles' Monday night loss at Washington in 1991 shows just how much trouble Philadelphia rookie right tackle Antone Davis had with Redskins left end Charles Mann. It's just that the caliber of opposition for the left tackle is high every week, and the frequency of having a tight end on the left side is small. "Depending on the team you're playing, you might face three different guys during a game," Lachey said. "It's almost nice when you just have to play against one guy. Maybe you can wear him out."

Even little things, like the adjustment to a lefthanded stance after years of lining up with the right hand down, become complicated. And though pass protection is the most important part of a left tackle's job, learning how to run block, particularly on the counter trey, demands a rookie's attention, too. The argument for easing the transition is compelling to some. Others aren't convinced. They figure short-term failures will lead to long-term success.

"I definitely think if a guy has the ability to play left tackle, you have to play him there from the start," Reeves said. "A guy who starts off at right tackle won't necessarily be able to play on the left side."

The left side is unique. Handling superb pass rushers one-on-one is tough enough at home, but road games can be hellish for left tackles. Setting up in a two-point stance opposite Renaldo Turnbull, while 69,000 New Orleans fans replicate Fat Tuesday in the Superdome, can be overwhelming. From the left tackle's spot on the outer banks of the offensive line, the snap count is a rumor amid the din, but he dare not look at the ball, lest he lose his man. Some teams try to solve the problem with silent snap counts, but getting 11 men to count at the same pace isn't easy. Other methods are less scientific.

"You have to look at the guy you're going to block and almost guess," Wolford said. "When you're playing a guy who takes off after seeing the ball snapped, you're almost a half-step slower. If you take your eye off him, you may never relocate him."

Left tackles employ a variety of methods to keep the matchup even. Sometimes, they cheat back a few inches off the line, a move that can draw an illegal-procedure penalty. (A new rule this season will allow linemen to move back about six inches off the line of scrimmage.) Other times, they'll try to duplicate the quarterback's cadence, a tactic that leads to those embarrassing situations when tackles take an uncertain step backward before everyone else. But mostly, they rely on preparation.

JIM GUND/ALLSPORT

Miami's Richmond Webb is a rarity, with his athletic ability enabling him to pick up the fine points of the left-tackle position quickly. Webb had been a left guard for most of his collegiate career.

Continued

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A QUARTERBACK'S

BEST FRIEND

Left tackles watch a lot of film, trying to learn their opponents' tendencies and best moves and then develop successful counters. The two sides spend the game trying to set each other up. An end may rush outside four straight plays before crashing inside on the fifth. A tackle could parry his rival wide one play, then chop him the next.

"We can't let a defensive end or linebacker get into a rhythm," Ruettgers said. "So, instead of setting up on a 45-degree angle, we'll go straight back one play. The next time, if it's a play-action, we'll go at him. Then, on a running play, we'll come at him from a (two-point) stance. It's a game within a game out there."

Although left tackles have different body shapes and ways of doing business—from Jumbo Elliott's snowplowing style to Ruettgers' technical approach—quickness is paramount, no matter how big or crafty a player is. Because of that, training methods have changed dramatically in the last decade. Ruettgers remembers relying heavily on roadwork during his first years in the league. He also jumped a lot of rope and hit the speed bag. "I realized after a few years of doing that, all I had become was a good speed-bag puncher," he said. Today's left tackles—and offensive linemen in general—labor long to maximize strength and quickness in a short area. While many coaches still want to see how fast a lineman can cover 40 yards, others time their big boys over 20. As a result, agility drills have become vital.

"The value of speed and quickness is immeasurable," Wolford said. "You can do all the power work you want, but if you're not quick enough, you'll get run through."

Packers offensive-line coach Tom Lovat prefers to have basketball-type players at left tackle—tall, long-armed athletes versatile enough to match up well with speed and bull-rushers. The Eagles must agree with Lovat, since they selected 6-8, 317-pound Bernard Williams from Georgia with their first pick in last April's NFL draft and projected him as their starting left tackle. Though he needs some time in an NFL weight room, Williams is a mountain with the wing span of a condor.

Ruettgers, however, is not a candidate for power forward. "He's a technician, very methodical, and he studies his opponents," Lovat said. Ruettgers is an expert on the infighting that takes place between linemen, which differs substantially from the scrimmage battles waged 25 years ago, before offensive linemen were allowed to extend their arms. Today when the two sides collide, hand control is paramount, so Ruettgers has developed a spectrum of karate-style punches, blocks and traps.

"If a speed-rusher comes in with his hands on your chest, you can hit his hands hard, and he'll go down," Ruettgers explained. "I see the techniques of pass rushers getting better all the time. It used to be that only a few guys had the knack for knowing where your weaknesses were. But now everyone is developing three or four different moves. If one doesn't work, they'll move to another.

"A guy like Leslie O'Neal really works hard. He can get your hands up before you can get his hands down."

A coach who possesses a left tackle who can successfully wage that war on the outskirts of the pocket has more flexibility in his passing attack. Reeves remembers his last year in Denver, when injuries forced him to use rookie free agent Russell Freeman (a natural right tackle) on the left side. Things went fine until the Broncos hit the road, and Reeves had to use a tight end or running back to help Freeman block on passing plays, thereby eliminating a target for John Elway. Indianapolis Coach Ted Marchibroda experienced similar problems until Wolford arrived.

"You want to minimize the amount of time the guy is standing out there by himself, but you don't want to minimize your game plan," Marchibroda said. "As soon as you do that, the other team has you beaten."

Left tackles appreciate any help offered them, even if it just means a tight end starting his pass route from the left side of the line. That can slow a defensive end a half-step and give an offensive tackle a better chance to succeed. "It's a popular approach," Schottenheimer said. "The tight end becomes an impediment to the pass rusher's progress." People help, but so do philosophies. Teams that use three- and five-step drops cut a second or two from the pass-protection clock. "I like San Francisco and Dallas' offenses," Elliott said. "They use a lot of timing routes and let the ball go quickly. That takes some of the pressure off." The shotgun helps at times, since passers face the line and have a better look at the left side. But Denver's Phillips isn't completely sold on that theory. "The shotgun can help the quarterback get away when a lineman is beaten," he said. "But sometimes it gives them more vision of the guys rushing and scares the hell out of them."

What left tackles really want is a quarterback who won't hold the ball too long, or at least one resourceful enough to step up in the pocket. Lachey remembers his rookie season in San Diego, when he guarded Dan Fouts' back. "It was like protecting a statue," Lachey said, laughing. "He never moved." Left tackles will endure the speed guys, the strength guys and the combination guys all game, if they know the quarterback is willing to help.

"The quarterback has to realize a sack is a huge play, and an incomplete pass is not," Wolford said. "Sometimes, you have to unload the ball. Quarterbacks can make their offensive lines look great by throwing the ball quickly. A guy like Dan Marino has a great release and can make decisions quickly."

No matter how much help a quarterback gives, it won't change the dynamics of the left tackle's situation. He still must prevent the opponents' best pass rusher from nailing the franchise quarterback from behind. And, tougher than that, he must overcome the disappointment and notoriety that stem from his failures, in order to rejoin the battle seven days later.

"If you mess up that one time, it could be critical," Gruber said. "If you make a mistake, you have to get it out of your mind for the moment and then try to make the correction later. A lot of times, you can go watch some film and see a little technique you can pick up.

"You need to be confident. You need to look at the position as a challenge."

Just don't make any mistakes. ◆

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

It's high-risk and dirty work, but someone has to do it. Among the willing volunteers for left-tackle duty is Indianapolis' Will Wolford.

> "The value of speed and quickness is immeasurable."
>
> Will Wolford

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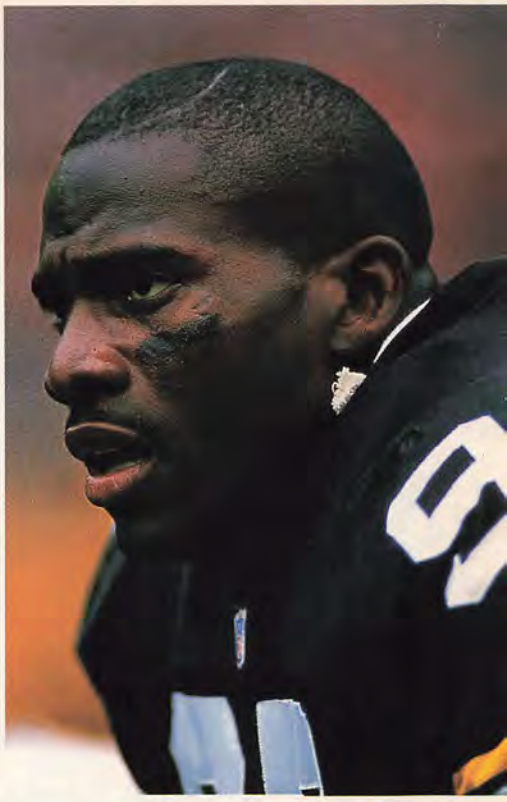
JUST PLAIN NASTY

Pittsburgh's Lloyd shows steely glare on field, yes, but he has soft side, too



TOM DiPACE

"Hit Hard" is an appropriate name for Greg Lloyd, who takes dead aim on whatever is moving.

By GERRY DULAC
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Greg Lloyd is hurting. So bad that when he smiles it is through teeth clenched like trap doors. It is Monday afternoon, less than 24 hours after he spent another day wreaking nastiness on the National Football League, and he is down on the floor, on his hands and knees, smiling. Yeah, smiling.

"How old are you, Ashley? Two? I have a daughter who's about two," Lloyd said. "Ashley, you're not talking to me. You're going to make me cry. You don't want to see me cry, do you, Ashley?"

It is another cold, snowy December day in Pittsburgh, and the coldest, meanest Steeler of them all is trying to light up the playroom at Children's Hospital. Lloyd is wearing a black leather jacket with a black leather baseball cap, and when he leans over to touch the hands or feet of the children—some of whom may never leave this room—a gold chain pops from beneath his shirt and dangles from his neck.

He moves freely about the room, from one sick child to another, and he stops to talk to each one, like a politician working a fundraiser.

"See that thing you have on," Lloyd says to Jessica, who is wearing an oxygen mask. "There are some days when I have to put one of these on, especially in Denver."

Then there is Stephanie. And Ashley. And Ryan. And Jeremy. And Christy. And Isaac. Lloyd talks with each one.

"Straight out of the Bible," Lloyd says to Isaac, who has lost his hair from chemotherapy treatments. Isaac is 13. "Did you know Isaac was a wise man?"

Lloyd asks Isaac if he misses school. Isaac shakes his head.

"I had to go to school and it was no fun for me, either," Lloyd said, signing a poster for Isaac. "But if I didn't go, I wouldn't be where I am right now. Anything you want to be in life, no matter what it is, you need an education."

Just plain nasty? Hardly.

Change the scene.

May 1993, a high school in Bridgeport, Conn. A security officer in a guard house patrols the entrance. He wants to know everything—name, purpose of the visit, person you wish to see. If what you tell him isn't on his clipboard, you ain't gettin' in. One of those type of schools.

Lloyd is standing in the auditorium, before a bunch of sophomores, juniors and seniors, telling them about life and what it takes to get through it. The topic comes from Lloyd's soul: "Hard Work is Required for Success." Actually, he doesn't need to speak. Just show the kids a highlight film. They will know, right then and there, all they need to know about hard work and success. About Greg Lloyd.

The eyes never waver from Lloyd.

"You try to let them know there are no shortcuts in life," Lloyd said. "There are going to be days when you think the end of the world is coming, but you have to get up and dust yourself off and keep going."

Change the scene once more, to the 1990 season.

Jets wide receiver Al Toon wasn't getting up. He wasn't going to dust himself off and keep going. He was lying on the turf at Giants Stadium, the victim of a vicious hit by Steelers safety Thomas Everett. And there was Lloyd, giddy beyond belief, running over to Toon and slapping the turf—one, two, three—the way a referee counts out a wrestler.

"I don't know if I would do that counting thing over again," Lloyd said. "Back then, I was just fighting to find my place in the NFL. But I don't regret it. I don't take it back."

Lloyd, the ferocious, snarling linebacker Jerry Glanville once called the meanest man in pro football, never takes anything back. It is against his very nature. "Hit Hard" Lloyd. That's what they called him at Peach County High School in Fort Valley, Ga., because that's what he did—hit hard.

Once he hit an opposing quarterback so hard he broke his leg. The officials threw Lloyd out of the game, claiming the hit was too vicious. In his first pro game, he crunched Denver Broncos quarterback Gary Kubiak so hard that the officials threw him out of that game, too. And in the same game he counted out Toon, Lloyd grounded Jets quarterback Pat Ryan, sending him to the sideline. The officials didn't toss Lloyd for that one, but two weeks later the NFL office slapped him with a $2,000 fine.

Hit Hard Lloyd. And never take anything back.

"That's the kind of player he is," said Jerry Olsavsky, an inside linebacker who lined up alongside Lloyd in the Steelers' 3-4 defense before a serious knee injury jeopardized his career. "You can't put a leash on him. You've just got to tell him to go out there and hit whatever's moving. He's going to play his

BOB ROSATO

game no matter what."

Lloyd's hitting prowess was evident last season in an October game at Three Rivers Stadium against San Diego. He hit Chargers wide receiver Anthony Miller so hard that Miller practically did a 360-degree turn. In that game, Lloyd also had a sack, forced a fumble, broke up a pass and made eight tackles.

The sack and forced fumble occurred on one frightening play—when he steamrolled Chargers quarterback Stan Humphries so ferociously that Humphries went one way, the ball went another and Steelers linebacker Levon Kirkland had a 16-yard return for a touchdown.

Hit Hard Lloyd.

"He blows people up," Olsavsky said. "He doesn't just tackle people. He blows them up."

So many images. So many moods. So many complexities. Try to figure out Greg Lloyd. You see the intensity that often is mistaken for moodiness and you decide—man or maniac? He has arms with bulging biceps, and if you think they are chiseled from stone, you're wrong. Stone is not that big.

Want more? Lloyd has a black belt in tae kwon do and a Ph.D. in glare. And then there is the T-shirt. The one with the skull and crossbones on the front, the distinct and oh-so-appropriate message "I wasn't hired for my disposition" on the back.

He wears it every day. No one wants to ask him if it's been washed.

Truthfully, though, Lloyd was hired for his disposition. It is his disposition that has earned him a four-year, $7.1 million contract and landed him in three consecutive Pro Bowls.

It is his disposition that has made him the fiery leader of a defense that last year spent much of the season ranked No. 1 in the NFL. And it is his disposition that makes Lloyd one of football's great contradictions—an uncontrolled terminator on the field and a caring, gentle marshmallow off it.

"People here only know me from what they see on television," Lloyd said. "That's one side of me, and that's the side I like to give to people, because when I'm here my job is to be an outstanding linebacker. I'm not here to be a peacemaker or a community leader or a cheerleader or anything like that. I'm here as a linebacker, and when I leave here I wear two hats—the hat of a husband and the hat of a father. You have to have some strictness with kids, but I leave everything that has to do with my job right here (in the locker room)."

It is when he leaves the locker room that the real Lloyd surfaces. He is among the most active of the players who participate in community projects, including Project Bundle-Up, which outfits needy Pittsburgh children with winter clothes, and the NFL Minicamp for Kids, which offers lessons in life and football.

Two years ago, he went to the state capitol in Harrisburg to speak to a statewide gathering on the prevention of child abuse. He also organizes a group of Steelers players who make weekly visits to Children's Hospital.

Lloyd also gives back to his college, Fort Valley (Ga.) State, donating $5,000 each year to its general scholarship fund. Last year, before a Monday-night game in Atlanta, the school honored Lloyd with a reception at a downtown hotel.

"When a kid sees a Michael Jordan or a Magic Johnson, they don't realize the hard work that went into that, the education that goes along with that," Lloyd said. "They think they can skip school and just shoot hoops and some agent is going to drive by and say, 'Hey, kid.' Somebody has to be there to tell them life isn't like that."

Greg Lloyd had that and he is thankful for it. Otherwise, he would have ended up like the kids to whom he was preaching.

Lloyd was two when his mother drove his four brothers and sister to her sister's house in Georgia and dropped them off. Permanently. Lloyd had never met his father. Now he was going to be raised by Aunt Bertha Mae, a woman he still considers his mother.

This was Lloyd's childhood, and he hasn't forgotten.

"I missed my father early in my life," Lloyd said. "I don't anymore. I missed him at Little League football games. I was one of the best players out there and people would slap me

Continued

on the back and tell me how good I played. But it didn't mean – – if it didn't come from someone who put food in your mouth and clothes on your back.

"After the game, kids would go with their fathers to the Dairy Queen or whatever. I had to bum a ride home."

Lloyd's resentment at a tender age forged the temperament he now displays on most any Sunday. And, as such, he and his wife, Rhonda, are careful not to make any of the same mistakes with their children—daughter, Tiana, and son, Gregory II. Lloyd has always been able to control his fury off the field; maybe that's the Boy Scout in him.

On the field, now that's a different matter. Lloyd is more like a character from the movie "The Last Boy Scout" when he exits the locker room on Sunday, all rage and intensity and arms.

"If you're not fired up," said Rod Woodson, the Steelers' Pro Bowl cornerback, "he'll fire you up or tick you off, one of the two."

Like last January, in the final game of the season. The Steelers trailed the Cleveland Browns, 9-3, at halftime in a game they needed to win to make the playoffs. Lloyd stormed in the locker room and took out his frustration on his teammates, calling them names and telling them, as only he can, that a second half like the first would not be tolerated.

Whatever the context of Lloyd's tirade, it worked. The Steelers won the game, 16-9, to make the playoffs for the second consecutive year. Afterward, Lloyd was not impressed with his Pattonesque halftime delivery. In fact, he was more shocked that such measures were necessary.

"It just messes with me that you have professional athletes that have to be yelled at, that you have to scream at, to get it done in a big game like this," Lloyd said.

But that's what Lloyd did, and his teammates quickly discovered the meaning of that sign that always hangs in Three Rivers Stadium: "95: Just Plain Nasty."

"If you would have walked in here, you'd have felt, 'Let's hurry up and get this – – over with,' " Lloyd said. There is a pause. "I'm like, 'Hell, no. You're – – with my money.'

"I'm not one to shy away because there ain't too many – – in here who are going to – – with me. None of these – – pay my bills. Nobody in here has to like me. All you have to do is play for 60 minutes. Cuss me or whatever, but give me 60 minutes.

"You shouldn't have to ask for that. But some things you can't candy-coat. When a guy is getting his butt kicked all day, you can't say, 'It's all right.' You have to tell him, 'This is b.s. If you can't do any better, stay in here (the locker room) and we'll put somebody else in.' "

Just plain nasty? Uh, yeah.

Greg Lloyd does not walk through the Steelers' locker room. He eases. He struts. His arms, rippling from a strenuous workout regimen that supplements weightlifting with tae kwon do, dangle from his side. He has that walk, that weightlifter's swagger, like he's one of those bad boys entering the ring of a World Wrestling Federation match.

Lloyd's paper measurements appear modest—6-foot-2, 225 pounds—but his sculpted physique includes a 34-inch waist, a size 48 jacket and a size 13 shoe. When he hits someone, whether a quarterback, running back or wide receiver, he doesn't just hit them. He attacks them. He explodes on them. Blows people up, as Olsavsky put it.

This hellbent-for-leather style has established Lloyd alongside today's NFL greats—Derrick Thomas, Pat Swilling, Cornelius Bennett and Renaldo Turnbull. But it also has resulted in serious injury to both of Lloyd's knees, a problem that caused him to miss his first 23 games with the Steelers after being a sixth-round draft choice in 1987.

"He knows one way to play the game," said Steelers Coach Bill Cowher, a former linebacker himself with Cleveland. "He has an uncanny ability to make things happen. He may not always be where you'd like him to be at the start of the play, but somehow he finds his way to the football."

Lloyd's instinctive nature—some might call it reactive—is the reason the Steelers wanted to move him to inside linebacker two years ago. Lloyd was against the idea, but he didn't say anything to Cowher, who was beginning his first season with the Steelers, because he didn't want to be perceived as a problem child.

But instead of his comfort zone expanding, Lloyd's was shrinking. He became uncertain and tentative in the middle. Worse, he became frustrated. It all boiled over one day at mini-camp when Lloyd vented his anger and got into a shoving match on the field with one of his teammates. Afterward, Lloyd had a talk with his coaches. They put him back where he belonged—at outside linebacker.

"You've got to want to be there, and I didn't want to be there," Lloyd said. "My concern was longevity. Could I make it through 16 games in there? I wouldn't want to be in a situation where I wouldn't be at my best to help my teammates, but also where I couldn't stay in this league long enough to do the things I want to do after this business (football) is over."

And Lloyd is well aware that there's more to life than football.

"Did you see the snow today? Do you like the snow?" Greg Lloyd asked.

Lloyd is bending over and peering from underneath his cap at Stephanie, 6, who is from Maine. Like so many others at Children's Hospital, Stephanie is in a wheelchair. Her mother is at her side.

"Stephanie, my name is Greg," he said. He takes his thumb and index finger on his right hand and puts them around Stephanie's impish left hand. Lloyd's two fingers swallow her hand. He shakes it, gently.

Stephanie remains silent.

Lloyd won't give up.

"When's your birthday, Stephanie?"

He is relentless, unflinching. He keeps after Stephanie, the way he chases after a quarterback, trying to get her to smile.

"You like cartoons? I'm a cartoon fan. Which ones do you like?"

Finally, a breakthrough.

"Bugs Bunny," Stephanie said. "Daffy Duck."

Lloyd smiles. Says something about Bugs Bunny and keeps moving.

Ashley is next.

Yeah, nasty. ◆

> "If you're not fired up, he'll fire you up or tick you off, one of the two."
>
> Rod Woodson, on Greg Lloyd

HARRY SCULL JR./ALLSPORT

Hellbent-for-leather Greg Lloyd, an instinctive sort who usually finds his way to the football, points the way for the Steelers' defensive unit.

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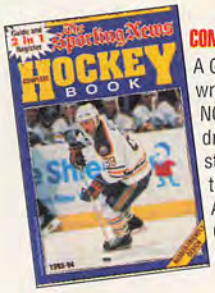

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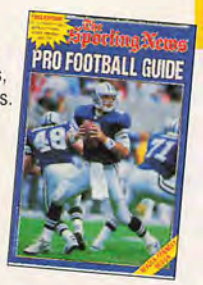

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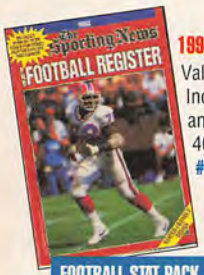

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MOVIN' ON

Bucs' Peters epitomizes life as NFL assistant coach —he keeps bags packed

By TERRY FREI

Free-lance writer

When Floyd Peters took his first National Football League coaching job 20 years ago, several of his friends already in the business offered some advice. It had nothing to do with X's and O's or the handling of players. "They warned me: 'Keep a bag packed,' " Peters said. "In this business, you win or you get out, and you accept that."

Check the underside of the dining-room sets of some NFL assistants and you'll see three layers of inventory stickers from various moving companies. Even the Publishers Clearing House sweepstakes mailings can be two moves behind some of these guys. By the time the sons and daughters of some NFL assistants graduate from high school, they have T-shirts of more teams than, say, what you'd find in a sporting-apparel shop in Louisville.

Being an assistant coach is a notoriously unstable occupation, and Peters, who is entering his fourth season as defensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, is one of the league's champion nomads. He's also one of the NFL's better-known assistants. Mention "Sergeant Rock" to almost anyone around the league, and they'll know immediately that you're talking about the bald, gravel-voiced, longtime defensive mentor.

Because Peters is highly respected and has been successful at every stop, he has been a lot of places. In his 20 seasons as an NFL coach, Peters has worked for six teams—the Giants (1974-75), 49ers (1976-77), Lions (1978-81), Cardinals (1982-85), Vikings (1986-90) and Buccaneers. If you add on his playing career, which included five teams, three Pro Bowl appearances and 13 seasons, plus a three-year stint as a scout with the Dolphins, Peters would have about three free moves coming if those companies gave frequent-mover points.

Unlike a lot of NFL assistants, Peters didn't pay his coaching dues in the high school and college ranks before moving to pro ball. He concluded his playing career with the Redskins in 1970 and got his first full-time coaching job with the Giants four years later. Including his service as both a player and a coach, Peters has drawn paychecks from 10 NFL teams (he worked for the Lions in both capacities) and along the way has become a one-man clearing house for stories involving the league. He is one of the few coaches who can talk credibly about how the NFL has changed from the days of Eisenhower to Clinton.

Peters said that he has made 11 "major moves" since he was drafted into the league as a player 36 years ago. It is necessary to use the word "major" because Peters doesn't count the three times he moved from house to house during his four seasons in St. Louis. He said Cardinals Owner Bill Bidwill told him—six years before the team actually moved to Phoenix in 1988—to "never buy a home because (Bidwill) was gonna move the team. I lived in four different houses because every time we rented one, they'd sell it out from under us."

Peters' wife of 37 years, Nancy, is long accustomed to the nomadic life most NFL assistants lead. "Am I good at moving?" she asks rhetorically. "I can put things in a box so fast your head can spin."

Continued

MOVIN' ON

Floyd and Nancy have four sons—Craig, Kelly, Dean and Allen—whom their father likens to "service brats." Now adults, they're scattered all over the country, most in places where their father once worked. That's typical in the business: Coaches move on, but their children—who might be enrolled in high school or college or want to stay near their friends—stay put. These families usually are not estranged; in fact, one tradition in the NFL coaching fraternity is for family members to gather where the parents are for Christmas (and hope those parents are getting ready for a playoff game, not another move). Since Floyd's last two jobs have been with NFC Central teams, the Peters family has made the Vikings' and now the Bucs' annual game at Chicago the site for their reunion.

Peters jokes about his sons "dropping off" at each of his previous stops.

Craig, for instance, is 35, has a doctorate in mathematics, lives in Half Moon Bay, Calif. (near San Francisco), and works for Bank of America. Kelly, 33, worked for General Motors in St. Louis before recently being transferred to the Dallas area. Both attended multiple high schools while growing up.

Dean, 30, and Allen, 29, both graduated from a highly regarded high school in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., a Detroit suburb, when Peters was with the Lions. Both made good grades in high school and Peters remembers asking them where they wanted to go to college. He was surprised when both boys said Michigan State, so he asked them: Why not a smaller school elsewhere?

"They said, 'Dad, we don't know where you're going to be, but we know where our friends are going to be,' " Peters said.

Yet, years after their graduations from Michigan State, the two youngest sons have settled into cities where their father has worked. Dean is an advertising artist in Minneapolis and Allen works for GTE in Tampa.

There are other NFL families with similar stories; plenty of them, in fact. Rare are the coaches who get to stay in one place for most of their careers, or even stay in one place long enough to get all the boxes unpacked from the previous move.

Career assistants move most often because the men who hire them, the head coaches, get fired or quit. Assistants occasionally are retained by the next head coach—defensive coordinators Joe Collier (Denver Broncos) and Buddy Ryan (Chicago Bears) worked for different head coaches during their tenures with those organizations. Peters, who joined Richard Williamson's Tampa Bay staff in 1991, was retained by new Coach Sam Wyche after Williamson was fired following the '91 season. But cases like Collier, Ryan and Peters are exceptions to the NFL's standard operating procedure: Most new head coaches bring in their "own" people.

The flip side, of course, is that veteran assistants often follow the head coach from city to city. Peters, for example, was an assistant under Monte Clark both in San Francisco and Detroit. George Dyer has spent all 12 of his seasons as an NFL assistant with Chuck Knox, first in Buffalo, then in Seattle and currently the Rams.

Career assistants move on when the head coach makes staff changes either out of dissatisfaction with the assistant's work or because he needs a scapegoat or two to save his own job. Assistants sometimes are sacrificed when the owner or the front office likes the head coach too much to give in to public pressure to fire him but feel the need to show the team's fans that they're doing *something* on the coaching front. Another reason for change may be when the assistant, usually a coordinator, gets too much of the attention—and credit—for the team's success, thereby making an insecure head coach feel threatened.

Fair or not, assistants sometimes become the fall guys for mistakes made by others. The Vikings, for instance, fired Peters in 1990 after their defense slipped to 13th in the league that season after leading the NFL in both 1988 and '89. The front office, however, had traded away three defensive starters in the disastrous Herschel Walker trade of October 1989. Peters took the fall, but Coach Jerry Burns survived another season.

"They can't fire the ballplayers," Peters said. "The owner isn't going to fire himself. There's only one guy left, the coaches. Most coaches are good coaches, but you're strictly tied to the talent you have or to the organization you're with. The successful organizations make the right decisions. So the coaches there automatically become geniuses.

"I don't think there's that much difference between coaches. There are a few clowns who last only a few years, but they get fired and they're weeded out pretty quickly. The word gets around."

The surviving coaches end up with children who have seen the country and, in many cases, learned to find the positive side of changing addresses. There are no official statistics about such things, but an educated guess is that the divorce rate among NFL coaches is lower than that of the general population. There are stories of coaches' sons and daughters staying behind to finish high school in their old neighborhood, or of wives saying "enough," or of estrangements caused by moving. Yet, given all the potential for turmoil, those incidents are surprisingly few. NFL families, on the whole, are surprisingly well-adjusted.

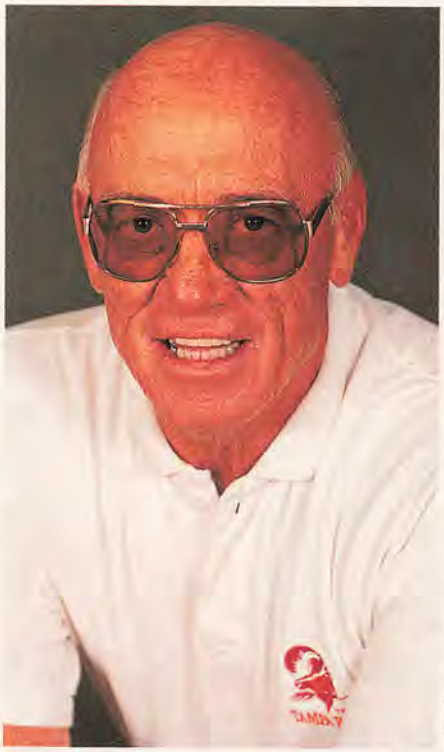
"Most of our sons were honor students and active in sports programs," Nancy Peters said. "They could adapt pretty easily. Moving around forces you to go out and do things. But as a family, too, we were close and we traveled as a tribe.

"You do wish sometimes that you could put roots down. But we found the positives in all of it. When you move around a lot, you have a chance to meet a lot of different people, do a lot of different things, find something worthwhile about every place you move. We never wallowed in the fact that we were giving up friends, and the boys never let that bother them."

"It starts out being really traumatic the first couple of times you do it, both on the wife and the kids," Floyd Peters said. "I realized as the boys matured that they were far more self-sufficient. They can go into any situation and not be shy. They've been thrown into new schools, they're making new friends and standing on their own. Big changes don't decimate them. This family has stayed close; much more so than my family when I was growing up in San Francisco. I had two

Continued

> "They can't fire the ballplayers. The owner isn't going to fire himself. There's only one guy left, the coaches."
>
> Floyd Peters



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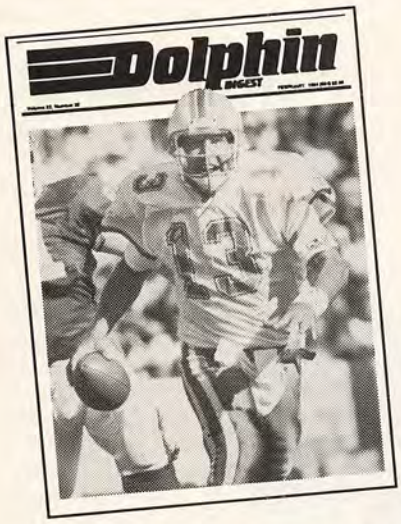
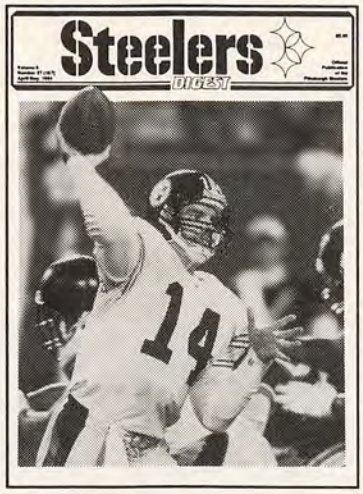
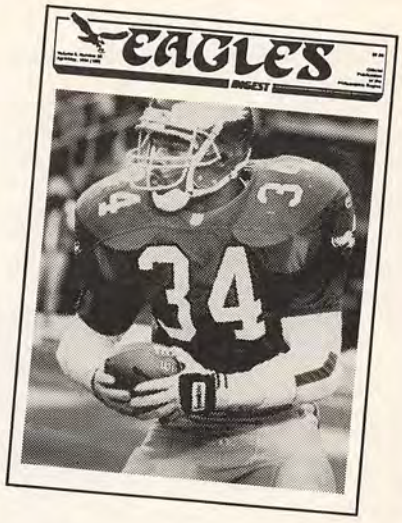
Dolphins, Steelers, Eagles & Saints Fans...







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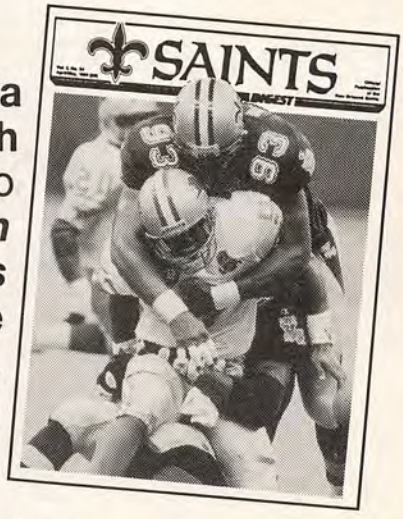

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SNA

MOVIN' ON

brothers and two sisters and we were always in the same place."

As her husband has moved around and her sons have left home, Nancy has seen her role change. "My children were my whole life when I was younger," she said. "That was my identity. You find that when your kids get older, you re-establish who you are. I did that. And now I'm so darned busy, I hardly have time to come up for air. I think you realize you can either make lemonade or sit here and be stuck with lemons. So I've found the positive in it—and I think my boys have, too."

Nancy Peters is involved with the Encore Theatre in Tampa, has collaborated on a cookbook and plays a lot of bridge. Recently, she and Floyd bought a boat, which they put to good use on the waters around Tampa. And they stay in touch with their children, all of whom were born during Floyd's playing days.

An eighth-round draft choice of the Baltimore Colts in 1958, Peters was cut before the season began. However, the rookie kept his teammates entertained in training camp by telling stories about the part-time job he held while attending San Francisco State. The job? He was a recreational supervisor at San Quentin prison, a position he got by lying about his age.

Peters jokes about getting a $50 bonus for playing both offense and defense in the blue-white scrimmage that year in front of 59,000 in Baltimore's Memorial Stadium. "I nearly died doing that," he said.

Told that he would have to add some weight to his 215-pound frame to play on a defensive line in the NFL, Peters returned home to San Francisco, lifted weights and caught on with the Cleveland Browns the following year. He hasn't missed an NFL season since.

"It was a growing experience, playing for Paul Brown at Cleveland," he said. "He was the forerunner of coaches who were disciplined and organized. He would make the players sit down and give 'em a two-hour lecture on not slurping your soup and wearing a shirt with a collar. He took a bunch of wild guys and made 'em into a good football team with discipline."

Peters spent four seasons with the Browns. However, it didn't take long for him to notice that, even bulked up, he was operating on borrowed time under the bigger-by-the-minute standards of the game. "My first year there, I was in the back row, in the middle of the team picture," he said. "So my bald head was in the center of the picture. They called me Big Pete. A few years later, they had me three rows down in the middle and they were describing me as 'quick and agile.' I went from Big Pete to quick and agile to obsolete."

In 1963, Peters was traded to the Lions, who had just gone through Alex Karras' betting scandal that resulted in the defensive lineman's one-year NFL suspension. Five other Detroit players were fined for wagering-related incidents.

"Paul Brown was that soft voice, saying, 'Now, men, we are the Yankees of football, you will not go into places where you're not supposed to be,' " Peters said. "So then I go into (Coach) George Wilson's meetings at Detroit. The first words out of his mouth were, 'All right, you guys . . . if any of you are out of camp fooling around, I'm gonna fine you. So let's get to work.'

"So that night—and this is my first in camp with the Lions—I go to the bathroom a little after midnight. I go down the hall and I look and there's just me and one other guy, some rookie, in the whole dorm. The coaches were all out, too! George Wilson, all those guys, they liked to go out drinking, too."

After one season in Detroit, Peters was traded to Philadelphia, where he spent the next six years. Finally, in 1970, he moved on to Washington, where he and other veteran players who held out during training camp felt the wrath of Vince Lombardi. "Oh, he was mad," Peters said. "All our equipment was lying all over the basketball gym."

Lombardi died in the preseason, and Peters served as a player/coach under interim Coach Bill Austin. The next year, when George Allen took the top job and asked Peters to return as a player only, Peters decided to retire. "I'd had four operations, five sets of choppers kicked out, 200 stitches in my face," he remembered. "I said, enough's enough."

For the next three years, Peters worked with an up-and-coming personnel guru named Bobby Beathard, lived in San Francisco and scouted the West for the Dolphins. "That was a valuable lesson in recognizing talent," he said. It also enabled him to watch Miami Coach Don Shula work a training camp.

In 1974, Peters was hired by Bill Arnsparger to coach the defensive line for the New York Giants. His family has been locked into the nomadic life of the NFL assistant ever since.

At one time, when Peters' defenses were doing well at St. Louis and then at Minnesota, he was considered a hot prospect for a head-coaching job. But he never got a job and he's realistic about his chances now.

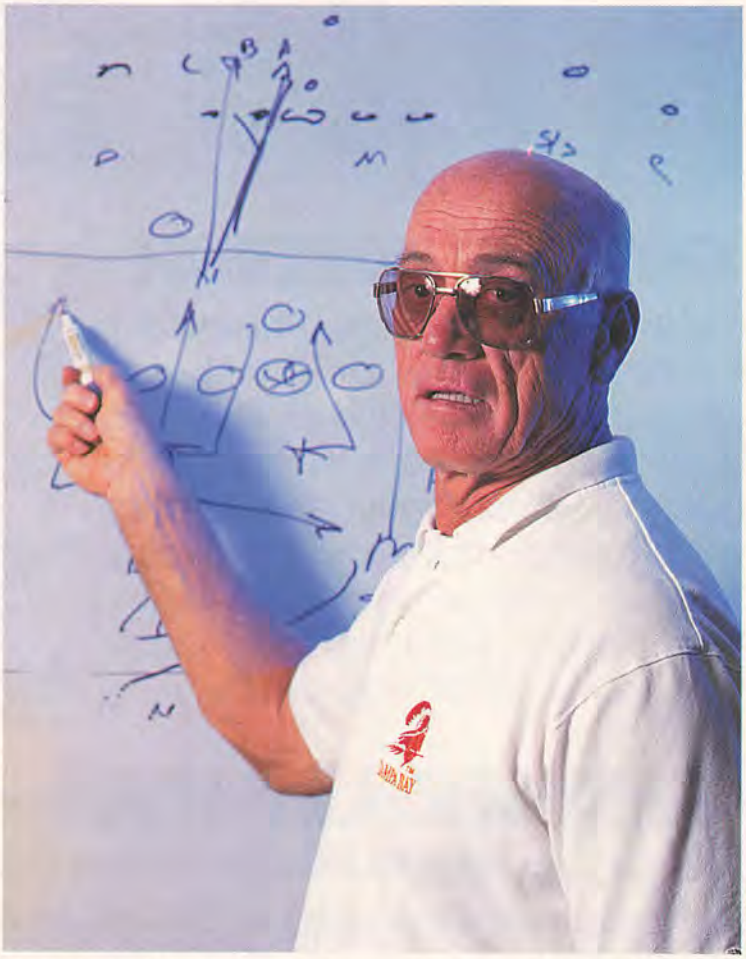
"When you're 58, you realize your time is running out," he said. "I enjoy coaching, though, and the one thing I see with most head coaches is they don't get enough time to coach. They administrate. I enjoy coaching too much. So now not getting a chance to be a head coach doesn't bother me as much as when you're young and you think you're a genius. Then you realize everybody's about equal and it depends on how good that ballplayer is.

"I've done a decent job wherever I've been. I've had the Number 1 defenses in three different places. I've been with some good coaches, and I've been trained by some great men. I think I bring a lot to the table. You can't stay the same in this business or they'll get a number on you, so I've changed, too. But it's all been a lot of fun.

"I'd like to coach until I'm 65, then retire. If I get to be a head coach, I'd love a shot at it. Right now, we've got to turn (the Bucs) around. The pressure's on this year. Sam Wyche says we're gonna be in the playoffs, so we have to be in the playoffs. The defense has to play well, the Bucs have to play well, and we have to win."

Or the coaches will be moving on.

Again. ◆



TOM DIPACE

The importance of X's and O's can't be discounted, but nomadic NFL assistants like Floyd Peters have other concerns, too—such as keeping their families well-adjusted.

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HANDS OFF

Switzer says he knows better than to mess with a good thing (two-time NFL champs)

By MICKEY SPAGNOLA

Free-lance writer

How could he do it? How could Dallas Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones run off one of the most successful coaches in the National Football League? Just up and tell a man who had won two Super Bowls, the respect of his peers and the adulation of Cowboy fans everywhere that, sorry, your services are no longer needed?

And, to top that considerable audacity, Jones hires a rah-rah college coach with not an ounce of NFL experience to lead America's Team.

What a fool, huh, this Jerry Jones, for thinking Jimmy Johnson could follow in the footsteps of Tom Landry.

Yeah, remember?

Of course, that was in February 1989, when Jones bought the Cowboys one day and fired soon-to-be Hall of Famer Landry the next.

Well, Jones, it seems, never learns. In March, he replaced Johnson with Barry Switzer, gleefully participating in the turn-back-the-clock rage now sweeping the country. Switzer, 56, hasn't coached in six years and has never coached in the NFL. He's a wishbone guy with a reputation for being a rah-rah, back-slapping motivator from his collegiate days at Oklahoma. Why, Switzer, who resigned his Sooners post under pressure in 1989, probably doesn't even realize that players wear helmet shields these days.

However, before you criticize the decision to hire Switzer, consider this: Jones has history on his side.

"I don't think the pressure is on Barry," the Dallas owner said. "The pressure is on me. This will be another challenge. I felt pressure when I bought this team in 1989. . . . I'm not bothered by pressure."

Nor universal criticism, it would seem.

Jones certainly did not help the credibility of this hire when he blurted out Switzer's name that March night at the NFL owners meetings in Orlando, Fla. Still fuming from a perceived snub by Johnson, Jones screamed, "I should have fired (Johnson) and brought in Switzer. There are 500 coaches who could have won the Super Bowl with this team."

But after the dust settled and it became apparent that Johnson valued escape from his 10-year contract more than he did coaching the Cowboys another season, Jones' decision to hire Switzer does not seem so far-fetched.

The Cowboys are coming off back-to-back Super Bowl victories and have won the NFC East championship the last two seasons. They have averaged 12 regular-season victories over the last three years and have won seven of their last eight postseason games. And considering they have Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin on offense and the majority of a defense returning that set a club record for fewest touchdowns allowed in a 16-game season, the last thing the Cowboys needed was a coach to come in with a new offense, a new defense and all new assistant coaches. The trick was to replace the head man without massive alterations to the club's personnel and systems. And finding an available coach with that type of inner security and humility is not easy.

The more Jones thought about Switzer, the more Switzer

made sense. Switzer had been a highly successful college coach who won three national championships and won or shared 12 Big Eight titles in 16 years. Moreover, he was itching to coach again. Switzer always had a desire to coach in the NFL (he turned down an interview request from the Kansas City Chiefs in the mid-1970s), and he knew his time was running short.

"I was bored, I was really bored," Switzer said of his life as a businessman. "I could handle it, and I was successful at it, but it's not what I wanted to do because I had done the other (coaching) for so long."

Jones was a player at Arkansas in the 1960s when Switzer was a graduate assistant coach there (Switzer still remembers the night Jones mistakenly caused his car to slip out of gear and roll down a hill outside the players' dorm). The two men had maintained casual contact with each other over the years, so when they reunited in Dallas last spring, the marriage seemed natural.

"Things will remain the same," Switzer said about his new job. "That's what the coaching staff and team are excited about. We're going to run the same playbook, the same plays, the same defense. We've got the same coaches doing the same jobs."

If this all sounds like Switzer is no more than the Cowboys' version of the Queen of England, a mere figurehead for the football operation, that's because it is so. And good for him, one NFC official said, because "he was smart enough to know not to do anything."

Switzer will not impart his wishbone tendencies on Ernie Zampese, whom Johnson hired in February as the team's new offensive coordinator after Norv Turner left to become coach of the Redskins. He will not tell Butch Davis to put a Selmon on his defensive line or force kicking coach Steve Hoffman to replace the departed Eddie Murray with Uwe von Schamann. And, as far as anyone knows, the Sooner Schooner hasn't been spotted outside Texas Stadium.

"Nothing has changed," Davis said. "Absolutely nothing has changed."

Switzer's hiring put the assistant coaches immediately at ease. That might be considered somewhat of a surprise since five of them had worked for Johnson at Miami (Fla.). But the Dallas staff had been sweating it since Lou Holtz's name popped up as a possible replacement should Jones and Johnson not patch their feud. More than one Cowboy assistant said Holtz's reputation is that of a hands-on head coach who dabbles in everything, thus reducing his assistants' authority and significance. Switzer's reputation is for allowing his coaches to coach, as Johnson did.

"He has been what everybody had told us he would be," running-backs coach Joe Brodsky said. "A coach's coach. He lets you do your job."

Switzer maintains that's exactly how he operated at Oklahoma, where he did not lose in his first 30 games after becoming coach in 1973. Switzer's worst record at the school was 7-4-1, and his teams lost as many as four games only three times. He said that during practices he would spend time with the redshirt freshmen to keep their spirits up while the assistant coaches tended to practice. He said he spent his time motivating and evaluating players and letting those players get to know him.

Switzer admits to being more of a complementary-type coach than many head coaches, especially those in the NFL, would feel secure enough to admit, let alone be.

"They have big egos," Switzer said of hands-on coaches. "I want to be successful here, and I think I know what it takes to be successful. And I don't care who gets the credit—the cheerleaders or those guys who cut the grass out there.

"(The assistants) will find out I'm probably the easiest guy in the world to work with in the coaching profession."

Because?

"Because I think I understand why you win or lose in 60 minutes of playing football," he said. "And I can recognize that no one person, no one coach, no one player wins or loses a football game. I just believe I'll prove (myself) to them in time."

Even the Dallas players, many of whom were big supporters of Johnson, saw the logic in hiring Switzer to replace him. No player was a bigger supporter of Johnson than Aikman, who, after a rocky start, had developed a tight relationship with his former coach. An aquarium aficionado, Johnson helped his quarterback set up a fish tank in Aikman's home.

"The players will be open-minded about this, and are intelligent enough to understand how this all came about and give him a chance," said Aikman, who played two years for Switzer at Oklahoma before transferring to UCLA. (The transfer took place because Aikman, who had broken a bone in his leg, was dissatisfied with the Sooners' wishbone offense, not Switzer.) "I think this has been as smooth (a transition) as we could possibly have anticipated."

Switzer checked whatever ego he has at the Red River when he took the Dallas job. He was no more than an innocent bystander during the NFL draft in April. He was a mere observer during the club's first three-day mini-camp and five-day quarterback school in May, where he allowed the assistant coaches and players to go about their business. Switzer's extremely laid-back style, one Johnson himself had adopted during off-season workouts the last three years, did not go unnoticed.

"Coach Switzer, man, he's always thinking," guard Nate Newton said. "He just doesn't go off at the mouth. Coach J just didn't make something happen that ain't happening, and Coach Switzer is the same. If something ain't wrong, he ain't going to make something happen."

Switzer's only mistake thus far came when he sang the praises of Jones in his first team meeting, telling the players that they should embrace their owner because he had the team's best interests at heart. In the players' eyes, however, Jones had just run off their head coach and had pulled the rug out from under tight end Alfredo Roberts, a likable player Jones released. The owner also traded starting free safety Thomas Everett to Tampa Bay and failed to re-sign free agents such as Murray, John Gesek, Kevin Gogan, Jimmie Jones and Tony Casillas. Jones also made it clear that he had no intention of paying more than $1 million per year to re-sign Ken Norton, who eventually signed with San Francisco. So, when Switzer appeared to be siding with management, Irvin—who had thrown a trash can in anger on the day Switzer was hired—stalked out of the meeting.

The next time Switzer met with the players, he made amends, saying he had crossed the double-yellow line that exists between team and management. He vowed not to do it again. That was big with Irvin.

Switzer also scored points when he singled out two players, Robert Jones and Chad Hennings, and told them that they'd have to step up their play this season in view of the team's free-agency losses. Switzer needs Jones, a former starter, to replace Norton at middle linebacker and Hennings to become the club's No. 1 backup defensive lineman after the departures of Casillas and Jimmie Jones.

"I liked that," said Irvin, who went to great lengths to explain that he has nothing against Switzer personally. "I just wanted to make sure what we got going keeps on going."

Thus far, Switzer has exerted little influence in personnel decisions. Much of that responsibility is held by scouting director Larry Lacewell (who, ironically, was Switzer's defensive coordinator at Oklahoma), Jones and Jones' son, Stephen, a club vice president.

And, really, when you have the nucleus of a two-time defending Super Bowl champion—and one that is still relatively young at that—how many personnel decisions does a coach have to make? Johnson performed the difficult first steps of rebuilding this franchise when he succeeded Landry five years ago.

Switzer's most crucial tests will come on game day, when the assistants will look to him to make critical decisions with the game on the line. Further tests will come next year, when someone must evaluate the players brought in to replace those lost through free agency. And the tests will come in the locker room—before games, at halftime and after games—when Switzer must handle situations on the spot.

Johnson was at his best at those times, and the players looked to him for guidance. Even Smith has said the Cowboys will miss Johnson's ability to correctly predict just how a game will unfold and how certain teams will play against them. Johnson's guarantee of a victory over the 49ers in last season's NFC title game, however, was more a case of Johnson manipulating his team's psyche than his peering into a crystal ball.

Switzer gets a bit irritated when people question his ability to replace Johnson, not unlike the skepticism he received 21 years ago when he replaced Chuck Fairbanks at Oklahoma.

"That's right, the same thing happened at Oklahoma," he said, sarcastically. "Two (national) championships (followed, in 1974 and 1975). Chuck, I think, had gone 22-2. And we kept going." (The Sooners' third national title under Switzer came in 1985.)

At Oklahoma, however, the team Switzer inherited was not coming off consecutive championships. The Cowboys are, and the pressure they will face in trying to become only the second team (after the 1965-67 Green Bay Packers) to win three straight NFL championships will be great. The odds are huge against Dallas winning again, especially with a rah-rah college coach who has never coached in the pro ranks.

But Switzer doesn't think the Cowboys have lost any momentum.

"The players aren't going to quit," he said. "They're going to play here. They're going to practice. I know what everybody is plugged into, what everybody's roles are."

Switzer likens his role with the Cowboys to that of a bus driver taking over in the middle of a cross-country journey. "My job is to keep the bus going straight down the road," he said.

So far, the bus has yet to swerve. ◆

The Sporting News

Q&A

GLAD YOU ASKED

JIM TURNER

With or without Jimmy Johnson, Nate Newton will do what's best for the Dallas Cowboys.

Beefy Newton addresses variety of weighty matters in no-holds-barred style

By MICKEY SPAGNOLA
Free-lance writer

During his eight-year National Football League career, Dallas Cowboys guard Nate Newton has seen it all and been through it all. He has stretched the outer limits of the gamut to new distances.

Here is a guy who was released by the Washington Redskins during training camp of his rookie season, yet by age 33 he has played on the last two Super Bowl championship teams. Here is a guy who was forced to reroute his NFL aspirations through the United States Football League but has played in the last two Pro Bowls. Here is a guy who came into the league at the near-freakish proportions of 300 pounds, earning himself the nickname "Kitchen." Now, weighing 335 pounds, he watches in amazement as his very own team drafts two offensive linemen weighing more than 320 pounds.

And here is a guy who, after making less than $100,000 per year at the start of his career, just re-signed with the Cowboys for more than $1 million per season. How things have changed for Nathaniel Newton Jr. of Orlando, Fla., top-notch offensive lineman and opinionated philosopher at the asking.

So we asked. And did Newton ever answer.

Q. You are coming off consecutive Super Bowl victories but are undergoing a coaching change, Jimmy Johnson leaving and Barry Switzer taking over. How are things going and what's in store for the Cowboys in 1994?

A. It kind of shocked me when Coach J left. That's a guy who knew me, believed in me and gave me an opportunity to excel and fulfill my potential. But one thing he taught all of us before he left was to do what is best for the Cowboys, and all you can control is your effort and your performance. So when he left I kept those things in mind, and then I came in with an open mind with Coach Switzer. My mind is still open with Coach Switzer. I've had three different head coaches (Tom Landry being the first), about three or four different offensive-line coaches, so change is nothing new to me. You've just got to find out what they want, make your adjustments. But you've still got to perform on the field if you want to be here.

Q. What has been your initial impression of Switzer?

A. He doesn't make up stuff, he doesn't do something just to do it. He's the type of guy that when something needs to be done or said, he'll say it. Other than that, he lets things go as they go. He doesn't try to make something that isn't there.

Q. How has the team responded to Switzer?

A. Everybody has just been working hard out there, man, and straining to show your value as much as you can in mini-camps and quarterbacks schools. But the real deal is going to come in August.

Q. You went through free agency, and the new system benefited you financially. What are your thoughts on the new system?

A. The deal is, it's still going to be the same people getting paid—the quarterbacks, the running backs. You'll get a few linemen, but that was that way, anyway. I don't want to pass judgment on it until I've seen it in effect for a few years. This year, here (in Dallas), didn't look real good. Maybe next year people won't be so scared to get a player.

See, like a lot of teams are just scared to get a player, to say, "Hey, I need to fill this position, and I'm going to fill it with the best possible player." I found out the teams like the Cowboys and the Patriots and the 49ers, teams with good coaches and good quality people, seems like if they want a player they go out and get him. They make a way for you to fit. With (Bill) Parcells being with New England, man, it seems like he knew what he wanted, went out and got it and really didn't care what anybody else thought.

That's the same way Coach Johnson was, and now Mr. (Jerry) Jones and Mr. (Larry) Lacewell (the Cowboys' director of college scouting). It seems like if they want a player, they go out and get the player and make the adjustment. The teams that are so-so, they hang around, and they wait for that lackluster player to show up. They don't go out and make a definite move to improve. It reminds you of the Texas Rangers.

Q. Free agency obviously worked for a guy like you, making as much this season as you normally did in two to three seasons.

A. It came at the right time for me. But I was out there waiting to see if people were going to make the offers. I think people didn't make the offers because they said, "Well, he's going to go back to Dallas." Well, Dallas had a set price, and if they could have given me a few more dollars or something, you know, to say, "Hey, we're interested in you. . . ." But I never want to go anyplace you're not wanted . . . or (are) the next best player in line. You always want to put yourself in a situation where you're wanted, and nobody showed me they wanted Nate Newton. So the best place for me was where people know me and want me, and that's in Dallas.

Q. Is free agency tough to deal with? I know you wanted your teammates to get what was best for them, but how does it feel to see players leave the Cowboys?

A. I just felt we shouldn't have lost Kevin Gogan (signed with the Raiders) or Ken Norton Jr. (49ers). But it ain't my money. I don't know how they structured it. They said after they got Emmitt (Smith) and Troy (Aikman) signed, boom, we had enough money for everybody else. But I guess they didn't expect Norton to be such a sought-after player, but then that's going to happen a lot to the winning teams. People have to understand the winning teams don't win by mistake. They win because they put their people in the right position and pay them what they're worth.

If you want to play in the bottom half of the league, you stay in the bottom half of the league. There are some teams that aren't going to spend their full $34.6 million (salary cap). They're not going to do it, because they are not committed to winning. But the teams that are committed to winning, they are going to stretch theirs to the penny. . . . Some teams, they just sit back, forget the players, thinking, we're making money, the fans will show up. They should be penalized.

You know, if you don't field a winning team, you shouldn't be put on TV as much and you shouldn't get the same (share of TV revenue) as Dallas or San Francisco. Then, hey, people would put out more. But now, there is no pressure for a Cincinnati to win. There is no pressure there for them to win. They get the same amount of money that Mr. Jones gets in TV rights. There is no pressure for them to win, so why should they go out and spend their full $34.6 million?

Q. How do you approach this season? Do you approach winning a third consecutive Super Bowl as a lark, or are you feeling pressure to do something no one else has accomplished?

A. The thing about it, man, the way we practice . . . we'll take care of ourselves—the way we go out and get after each other, come game time. We talk about the Super Bowl because we've been there before. But that is not our main goal. Our main goal is to win our division. You know, we have the toughest division, the most physical division, and if we win our division, with home field or without home field, we have a good chance in the playoffs.

BOB ROSATO

Newton thinks bottom-of-the-rung teams should face economic penalties for what he considers lackluster efforts to be competitive.

Q. Having to go through the USFL to get into the NFL and now playing for the two-time defending Super Bowl champions and making the money you're making, did you ever dream it would turn out this way?

A. I figure like this: I came in, I was a free agent and you can be the best lineman on the team, but you can get guys coming in drafted that are not as good as you, but the draft selections are always put ahead of you. You can come in, and get paid, and eventually get two or $300,000, but that draft choice already is making that his first year. So his next contract starts at your maximum. So you say, "Gol', I'll never move up." And you're not going to get traded because the team has your rights. And if they're not going to trade you, they make you sit home. So you got punished for being good—you got punished for being better than the scouts thought you were.

Now it's turned around. When I first came into the league, it was a sin to be built the way I was built or to be the way I am now. Now I turn around and every (lineman) is built like me. I mean every (lineman). Goddang, maybe not exactly like me, but they are as big as hell, got good feet—just huge individuals. I'm like, just think, man, I remember the day after the draft I was getting the write-ups: Will Nate make the team? He's too big, he's too that. Now, it's like they draft 6-foot-6, 370 pounds, and that's like, great. Man, the world changes.

Q. Do you think you and William Perry opened people's eyes to the fact 300-pounders could be productive in the NFL?

A. Naw, naw, man. What it was is, (NFL Commissioner Paul) Tagliabue started it. You take a guy weighing 250 pounds and give him (steroids) and you can get up to 280 pounds, looking fine, looking cut. But when Tagliabue said no more cheatin', no more steroids, no more test-tube monkeys is what I call them, all of a sudden, the big guys were in demand. We could always move, and block, but we just didn't look good in uniforms.

Why take some guy who may have his stomach hanging over his belt, when we can take this nice, trim Tarzan-who-plays-like-Jane-built (player). Tagliabue screwed those guys. I loved it. Now, you're getting greater players, truly God-gifted, taking over the game, not some two- or three-year steroid freak.

Q. When you look at your career, do you look at yourself as someone who came along as a late bloomer or has the change in the game enabled you to fit in so well?

A. Both. I got fortunate I got into an offense that was made for me. Landry's just wasn't made for me. I'm a straight-ahead blocker. I can pull, I can pass-block, but I'm more of a dominant, move-people type of blocker. And Coach (Norv) Turner came in and made it real nice for me, man. Coach (Dave) Shula (like Turner, a former Dallas offensive coordinator) had 60 schemes, and we weren't good at none of them. Coach Turner came in and gave us two or three schemes and we got good at all of them.

I worked hard to get where I am, but the game is finally getting to where it should be. Regardless how you (are) built, how you look, how you smell, it's can you play ball? That's the bottom line. Damn how you look. Damn if you speak to the coach. But can you play? We can deal with you as long as you can play.

Q. With bigger players coming into the league, do you find the attention given you because of your weight diminishing?

A. I'm still going to get the weight thing thrown at me because I was one of the first, and that's always going to be a part of it. But the sweet thing about it is, I'm getting paid. You know what's so funny? People come up to me and say, "You fat this and you fat that." And I tell them, "I'm getting paid to be this size. What are you getting paid to be that size?" And they don't have an answer. I get paid $1 million a year to be Nate Newton, 335-pound guard. But what is your problem?

Q. At what weight are you most productive, or have you just given up on counting pounds?

A. Uh-uh. I know my weight: 325 to 333. If I stay in there, I can play Pro Bowl-caliber ball. Right in there. No less than 320. No more than 333. I'll play lights out, four quarters, right at your face.

Q. You had fun at the Super Bowl, and had people, especially the media, remarking how outspoken you were on so many subjects.

A. Loved it, loved it, man. I stayed up all night, partied hard, practiced hard, practice extra hard, worked out after practice, interviewed hard, played hard, partied after the game hard . . . then went to the Pro Bowl and did the same thing. You have to live (the) Super Bowl. When it's time to party, you party

Continued

hard as you can. When it's time to practice, you practice as hard as you can. When it's time to rest, you rest as long as you can. I think it's crazy for a guy to go to the Super Bowl and, you may not like the media, you may not want to deal with the media . . . but you got to deal. Coach Johnson and I used to talk, and he'd say, "Hey, Nate, play hard, practice hard and then let's party hard." Hey, that's me, man.

Q. Did you really enjoy the media interviews at the Super Bowl as much as it seemed?

A. I loved it, man. I stayed out to 5:30 (a.m.), got in, was supposed to be up at 6:30 for media day. I slept for about 35 minutes, woke up and I was ready. I loved media day, man. If you come from where I come from, and went through what I went through, you'd be a damn fool not to enjoy media day. You get a chance to say what you want, and I appreciate the media for letting me be a part of media day. Because I know 26 other teams sure (were) saying, "Boy, I wish I could be taking part in media week."

Q. Your brother, Tim, attended the University of Florida, and you went to Florida A&M, a school with a predominantly black enrollment. Was there a reason you chose that route?

A. With me, I went to a black high school and I wanted to stay that route. I liked Florida A&M and what they had to offer me at that time. My dad wanted me to go to Florida State, but I wanted to go to Florida A&M and that's where I went. My brother came along at a time . . . it was better to go to the bigger universities. Those guys were getting drafted, more attention. He visited Florida A&M, but they just didn't have the facilities or the dorms that he was used to seeing when he visited the bigger schools. I visited the big schools, too. I was a blue-chipper.

But when you go to a black school, you got to . . . want to go to a black school because it doesn't offer a third of what the big schools do. So if you're a top-liner these days, it's hard to go to a black school unless that's what you really want to do. I just wanted to go there. And it's nothing against white people, because I've always been able to get along with people whether black, white or green or whatever the color. I just wanted to go to a black school.

Q. How much of your immense pride in your play is the result of going through those 1988 and 1989 seasons when the club went 3-13 and 1-15?

A. I was never faked out by those seasons. We were (awful) and you knew it. And when you went in a game, your whole mental outlook was different than now. You went in then saying, "Damn, how close can we keep it? Can we hang in? Oh, hell, we're playing the 49ers?" But teams still wanted to kill us because we were the Cowboys. I can watch games where teams are substituting and letting up. But that never happened to the Cowboys. They would not let up. And now when I hear coaches and other people saying, "The Cowboys are steppin' on people," I just remember back to '88 and '89 when teams used to run through us like a hot knife through butter. And we didn't complain. We took our ass-whoopin' and said, "Our day's coming." Now our day is here and everyone is complaining.

> "At the end of these three years, if I can perform at a high level, I'll be through. And happy. And satisfied."
>
> Nate Newton

Q. While you didn't have winning seasons, do you having any special memories from the days under Tom Landry?

A. I appreciate Coach Landry giving me the opportunity. Like I tell people, if it weren't for him I wouldn't have had an opportunity. This was probably like a last-chance thing for me. And he saw enough in me, enough quickness, enough ability, to keep me around. I mean, that first year I didn't know nothing. And the offense, God-dang. I went and did a check on some of the guys running the offense, and them guys were 3.4 (grade-point average) in college. I said, "Damn, you got Rhodes scholars running this offense." This guy from Brigham Young. This guy from Stanford. Then there was me.

Q. What makes Emmitt Smith so great?

A. Vision and knowing how to run. I've seen them design plays and say this is where this should break. And I've heard Emmitt walk out there and say, "That ain't going to break there, it's going to break here." And get in the game, that's where it breaks.

Q. Who is the best offensive lineman in the NFL?

A. Randall McDaniel (Vikings) . . . the best. He's got it all.

Q. Who is the best defensive lineman?

A. Jerome Brown (former Eagles standout), and he's dead. The most dominant . . . and he's gone, bro. No one else. Not in my book.

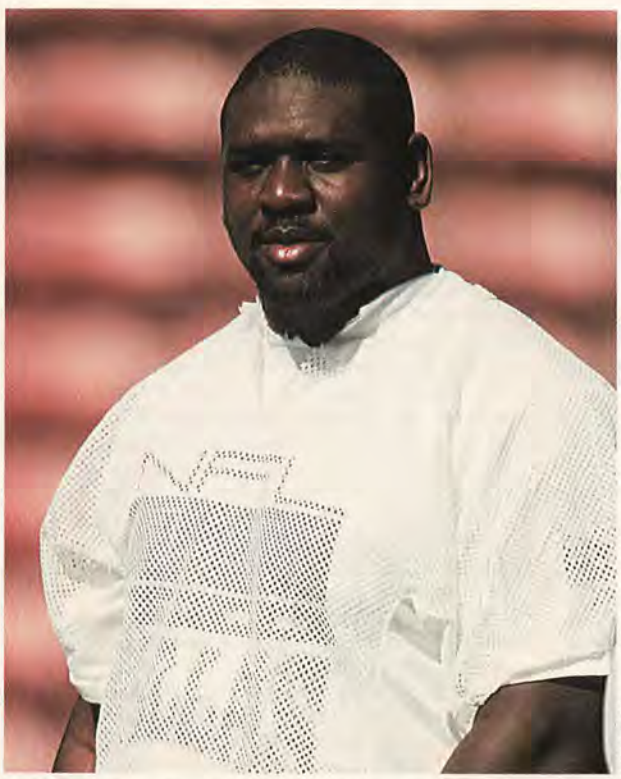
Q. What do you think made Jimmy Johnson so successful?

A. The only thing he wanted to do was win. Bottom line. The only thing he cared about was winning. And it was self-driven, hoss. All he wanted was to win, and he didn't care about nothing else. But he had it in proper perspective. See, people didn't know Coach J. He didn't always talk about winning. But when it was time for football, when it was time to do the things to prepare himself, man. I'll tell you, I've seen Coach Johnson cry, I've seen him happy, I've seen him mad, and it didn't always pertain to football.

But when it came to the Dallas Cowboys, all he wanted to do was win. When you got in a game, he might come up to you and say, "What happened?" And you say, "Well, Coach, the guy did this." He says, "Well, why didn't you stop him?" And you go, "Well, with the way we was taught. . . ." And he'd say, "I don't give a — the way you was taught, stop the guy so we can win the game." You know, stop the guy so we can win the game. All he cared about was winning. He didn't care if he looked good to the media. He didn't care if he looked good to Mr. Jones. All he knew was, if we won, everything will be catered to us.

Q. You've signed a three-year contract. Will this be your last?

A. At the end of these three years, if I can perform at a high level, I'll be through. And happy. And satisfied. If I can play this year at a high level, I'll be happy. Then if I can get another two years in, it will be OK. And I look at it this way: I've given a lot to football, and I've gotten a lot out of football. But I don't panic now like I did four or five years ago. Does the coach like me? Is this OK? Oh, gee, man, new coach, new this, new that, new system. It had you going nuts. Now, I go out and play, know what to do, know how to play the game. I'm never going to be a master technician, so I'll always have to work on my technique. But let me tell you, when it's nut-cuttin' time, I'll do it. ◆



BOB ROSATO

Nate Newton laughs all the way to the bank over cracks about his size.

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By TERRY FREI

Free-lance writer

When he retired from the National Football League at age 28, linebacker Dave Meggyesy seemed convinced that football was unsalvageable. Irredeemable. Unavoidably linked to what he viewed as the ills of American society in the late 1960s.

Meggyesy turned his back on the St. Louis Cardinals' offer of a $35,000 contract for 1970. Before long, he was sitting at a table, with a beard and hair down to his shoulders, smoking a cigarette and promoting his bitter landmark book, "Out of Their League."

Meggyesy affected many of us who were trying to balance athletic aptitude, however minor, with burgeoning political awareness in the early 1970s. Confusion, disillusion, anger. We ran the gamut. And we were moved to at least reflect when Meggyesy told us in his foreword: "After playing the sport most of my life, I've come to see that football is one of the most dehumanizing experiences a person can face."

In 1994, Meggyesy is the NFL Players Association's Western director, an unrequited rebel operating on the fringe of the "system" he once rejected. At age 52, he looks as if he could have retired five years ago and just come off the field from coaching the Cardinals' linebackers. His power-to-the-workers rhetoric can be more reminiscent of John L. Lewis mobilizing the United Mine Workers than of Tom Hayden addressing the Students for a Democratic Society. Ask Meggyesy if he could take another step toward the mainstream and work for a team, he laughs and says: "I'd probably do weird things like have the players elect the coaches."

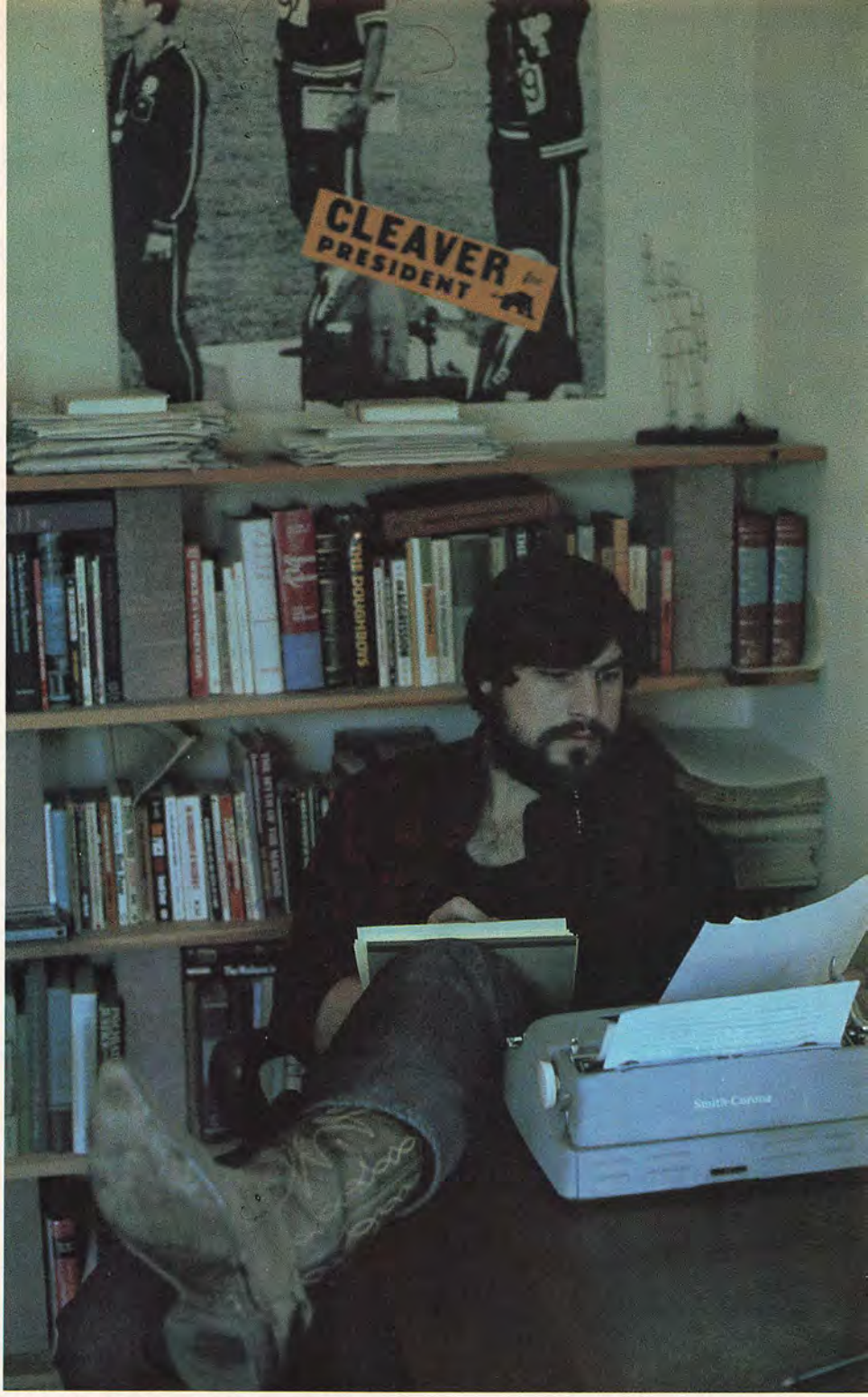
Meggyesy now accepts football as a civilized pastime, at least when run by decent men who respect individuals under the evolved standards for sport. He concedes he wasn't able to shake his fascination—and even love—for the game. In the passionate pages of "Out of Their League," such an accommodation seemed unlikely; in 1994, Meggyesy retroactively makes a distinction between the game itself and the system. If it seems revisionist memory at times, given the rarely qualified bitterness of his book, we're all a little prone to that indulgence.

"To me, playing the game itself was an incredible experience," Meggyesy said in his office in the Sailors Union building in downtown San Francisco. "I really loved it. I think every athlete who has the wherewithal or the ability to play the game at a high level, or even at high school, should do it because it can be a great experience. As I kept progressing, I kept seeing contradictions. My question, perhaps a naive one, was why it had to be that way."

Why?

A lot of us were asking that in those days.

Bill Clinton, as a young man, protested American involvement in the Vietnam War at Oxford. Two decades later, as the nation's chief executive, Clinton became friendly with former President Richard Nixon, a key player in the Vietnam turmoil. John Kerry, the leader of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, is now a U.S. senator from Massachusetts. Katherine Ann Power, radical fugitive-turned-chef, came out of hiding in 1993 and made the cover of Newsweek. Jane Fonda, who visited Hanoi, is selling workout tapes. David Meggyesy, the once-notorious author who now prefers the more formal first name, has been with the NFLPA since July 1981, working with some players who weren't even born when he wrote "Out of Their League."



MICKI McGEE

Fed up with the "dehumanizing" aspects of pro football, Dave Meggyesy quit as a player at age 28 and proceeded to put his thoughts on paper. The result was the controversial book, "Out of Their League."

"I have certain ideals that I haven't given up on at all," Meggyesy said. "Our organization, under Gene Upshaw's leadership, has incorporated a philosophy I'm absolutely comfortable with."

And what of those of us who devoured Meggyesy's book? Many of us now spend weekends watching the NFL, then putting on a digitally remastered Rolling Stones CD—or maybe even Randy Travis' latest—and reading. We update our Rotisserie-league standings, mow the lawn, maybe clean the apartment, look over a magazine and then plan for the Monday workday. For us, "Out of Their League" on one level stands up as a time marker. But to make it something akin to a pair of bellbottoms is to devalue it.

That's the kind of thinking, perhaps, that causes Meggyesy to say he didn't like "The Big Chill," the popular 1983 film about a

BACK IN THEIR LEAGUE

Still a rebel 25 years later, NFL dropout Meggyesy finds peace on fringe of 'system'

MICKI McGEE

At 52, Meggyesy now sees civility in the game and has even rejoined its ranks as the Western director of the NFL Players Association.

group of Age of Aquarius college classmates reuniting following a suicide.

"It trivializes what the concerns are," Meggyesy maintained. "It was saying we were naive youth back then. Well, no, we weren't naive youth back then. We were right on. We were. And we are. We're older, we're not youths, but we're still the youths who were right on."

"We" were neither monolithic nor universally rebellious, of course. Our generation's widespread self-righteousness and embrace of psychedelics now can trigger winces. Some of us consider components of 1990s political correctness nearly as abominable as the values we were questioning in the early 1970s, and believe that overdue change begat absurd overreaction. Regardless of where our political views fall now, an awful lot of us remember reading Meggyesy's book in a period when we were damn mad about Vietnam and about . . .

Fill in your personal blanks.

I read Meggyesy's book when—as a high school sophomore in 1971—I was trying to decide if I wanted to continue playing football, and then kept it in my personal library. A shaggy, bearded Meggyesy is wearing a jersey and shoulder pads on the front cover. On the back, he is in a headband, vest and jeans, standing at an open locker with his pads and jersey protruding. The pictures were part of the same joke: Meggyesy had turned his back on the game.

Hooking up with social activist Jack Scott's Institute for the Study of Sport and Society in Oakland, Meggyesy produced what Look magazine called "the roughest sports book ever written."

"I made up a box of cards that went through my history, and then I talked into a tape recorder," Meggyesy said. "Those got transcribed and then I edited them. Jack was acting as editor."

The result was part autobiography, part treatise, largely controversial and surprisingly popular. Ramparts Press published the hardback, and Simon & Schuster distributed it. My original copy has almost a garage-printing-press look, with type of varying darkness, pages out of order and even a book-long misspelling of Bidwill, the longtime ownership family of the NFL Cardinals. That self-printing look helped secure its appeal as an anti-establishment work. If it had been too slick, we might have wondered: Did he sell out? Don't laugh. That's the way we thought in those days.

Meggyesy wrote about a corrupt college football system, one that produced coaching staff-arranged payoffs and Mickey Mouse courses for players when he was at Syracuse University; about team trainers operating as virtual pushers, dispensing amphetamines, steroids and pain-killers to the eager and the ambivalent alike; about the pressure to play hurt; and about a mind-set that permeated the game. The end of his chapter dealing with the NFL's decision to play on the weekend after John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963 stands as a fair sample of Meggyesy's message:

"The whole dialogue suggested a deeper connection between football and our society that I would become aware of later when I became involved in the anti-war movement. By then it would be impossible for me not to see football as both a reflection and reinforcement of the worst things in American culture. There was the incredible racism which I was to see close up in the Cardinals' organization and throughout the league. There was also the violence and the sadism, not so much on the part of the players or in the game itself, but very much in the minds of the beholders—the millions of Americans who watch football every weekend in something approaching a sexual frenzy. And then there was the whole militaristic aura surrounding pro football, not only in obvious things like football stars visiting Vietnam, but in the language of the game—'throwing the bomb,' being a 'field general,' etc., and in the unthinkable obligation to 'duty' required of the players. In short, the game has been wrapped up in red, white and blue. It is no accident that some of the most maudlin and dangerous pregame 'patriotism' we see in this country appears in football stadiums. Nor is it an accident that the most repressive political regime in the history of this country is ruled by a football freak, Richard M. Nixon."

continued

BACK IN THEIR LEAGUE

In 1970, baseball player Jim Bouton's "Ball Four" broke ground for alternately humorous, observant and stern candor from within the system; Meggyesy's book was the next step, an acerbic denunciation of the system itself. NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, who made few public-relations gaffes beyond the post-assassination decision to play on, wasn't going to help Meggyesy sell books by blasting him. Rozelle, Meggyesy recalled, said: "Nobody talk about Meggyesy." The only prominent NFL figure to talk about the book, Meggyesy said, was Vince Lombardi, "and he said I was a raving, radical lunatic."

Radical? Certainly. But raving lunatic? Certainly not. Remember, Vince Lombardi—the great coach—thought light-blue dress shirts were signs of rebellion. And, through several printings of the paperback through the mid-1970s, "Out of Their League" was required reading for many college courses at respected schools.

Part of Meggyesy's message got lost in the surface stereotypes of the time. He freely admitted he had used LSD and other drugs, which made his justified complaints about the locker-room apothecary less credible. These are not criticisms, but his long hair and his beard, and some of his New Left doctrine, seemed almost scripted. It added up to this impression: A Young Radical and, went the whispers, perhaps a Jack Scott puppet. Ignore him, Peoria. And much of the NFL, from players on up, wrote him off as a malcontent dropout.

It clearly was a mistake to write off Meggyesy's words as mere early-1970s, New Left conformity. Many of us sounded as if we were reading slogans off posters in those days, but that didn't mean the points were invalid.

The NFL had black men in huddles but an inordinate number of rednecks on coaching staffs, in front offices and in locker rooms. Meggyesy talked about quota systems and "stacking" at certain positions for blacks; about his wife, Stacy, discovering early in his career that the spouses of black players hadn't been invited to white wives' parties; and about a teammate telling him in his rookie training camp in 1963 that Meggyesy had a good chance to make the team because his competition was "two dumb nigger linebackers who are so stupid they have trouble tying their shoes." The Cardinals were considered the most backward organization in the league, even then, but such attitudes weren't isolated to the St. Louis franchise.

The Cardinals' star at the time was running back Johnny Roland, who is black. Now the running backs coach for the New York Jets, Roland was in contention for the top job at Chicago when Dave Wannstedt was hired and also was considered a favorite for the head coaching position of the expansion franchise expected to be placed in St. Louis (the NFL instead awarded teams to Jacksonville and Charlotte for 1995). Was the Cardinals' organization racist in his playing days?

"Most probably," Roland said. "What can I tell you that was different in those days? You would have to assume that it was. Well, maybe not the organization per se, but some of the people in it."

The mistake many of us made in that era was to consider any voice of authority raised in anger—sometimes to motivate—as the military mentality encroaching too far into civilian life. We overreacted at times to such stern pronouncements, which often emanated from coaches. So did Meggyesy. But it's also true that in Meggyesy's playing era, the pettiness and regimentation often accepted in the name of "discipline" could be both scary and ridiculous.

Meggyesy's message wasn't for everyone, of course.

"I've basically been conservative my whole life," Roland said.

Another of Meggyesy's teammates, All-Pro safety Larry Wilson, ended up in the Cardinals' front office. He still works for the team after stepping down as general manager after last season. He says he remembers the book being discussed, but that he never read it. "I didn't see any need to," he said. "I wasn't really interested in it."

Wilson said he always has considered the racism charges as "hogwash"—at least from his perspective. "When you go out and play and practice and you're having fun," he said, "it never entered my mind who was next to me or on the other side, other than his name and his ability."

Roland also said he never read the book.

"Dave was just kind of a guy who was a little different," Roland said. "He was more of a liberal than most of us, but he was a forward-thinking type. I guess you'd have to say he was a humanist, wanting equality for everybody."

Football in Meggyesy's—and Roland's—day was an angry, passionate, violent sport. It always was. Always will be. There's a fine line between ugly hatred, no matter how temporary, and channeled, perhaps unbridled, aggression. But think about this: At the last Super Bowl, even a veteran coach, Marv Levy, belittled the "football is war" claim of a regular caller to his radio show. Levy sarcastically said he had checked around and discovered that the troops storming the D-Day beaches had been yelling: "This is football!"

Jack Scott, later involved with Bill Walton during his counterculture phase and with Pa-

MICKI McGEE

MICKI McGEE

Activist Jack Scott (right) acted as an editor for headband-clad Dave Meggyesy's landmark book. In a free moment, the two joined some associates for a self-described "Freak Bowl" to amuse a TV camera crew.

tricia Hearst during her flight, was a Meggyesy confidant and played a key role in getting his story into book form. But the evolution of the book was not the result of a Scott brainwashing—nor was it the emergence of a "new" Meggyesy.

Meggyesy had been involved—at least on the fringe—of the anti-war movement as early as 1965. The Cardinals gave him grief for his organizational work with the St. Louis Mobilization Committee, which sent busloads of protesters to Washington for the 1967 march on the Pentagon. Meggyesy passed around a Eugene McCarthy-for-President petition at the Cardinals' Lake Forest, Ill., training camp in 1968, when the Chicago police and anti-war demonstrators were matching excesses in Grant Park during the Democratic National Convention. Roland was one of the Cardinals who signed the petition, but he jokes: "I was politically naive at that time. I probably would have signed anything Dave put in front of me."

In 1969, Meggyesy was criticized for deliberately neglecting to stand at attention during the national anthem before games, and he admitted it was a symbolic gesture. Late in '69, his seventh and final season, he went on the record with some of his concerns in a Philadelphia Inquirer interview with Sandy Padwe, saying: "When society changes in the way I hope it will, football will be obsolete." Padwe eventually helped get Scott and Meggyesy together.

Meggyesy says he has only minor regrets about "Out of Their League," the most significant being how hard he was on Bob Vogt, his high school coach in Solon, Ohio. In the book, he said he came to believe that Vogt's rhetoric about caring for his players was empty, that all he cared about was how the players could help him win. Meggyesy now believes Vogt was a decent man, and that when he wrote the book he overreacted to Vogt's volatility. Other than that, there are few second guesses.

"I look back at that stuff and I'm not embarrassed at all," he said of the book. "I wasn't a flower child, and I considered myself a pretty normal person in a lot of ways. To me, there were always two ends of the movement, the human-growth element and the social-consciousness element. I've always tried to bridge the two of them. Without a doubt, the social-consciousness issue without a political sense could be so corruptive, and I thought 'The Big Chill' was an example of that."

In other words, rhetoric can be hollow if you don't act. And that's significant, because Meggyesy has returned from a bitter exile to argue from the periphery—to be a pest instead of a dropout.

Meggyesy's activism has come, among other places, at the typewriter; in the classroom, when he taught classes at Stanford and other Bay Area schools; and then with the players association.

Yet he will always be most identified with the book he wrote nearly 25 years ago.

Meggyesy's opening passage—about blocking a Pittsburgh Steeler and hearing the opponent's knee explode—grabbed me. In the fall of 1970, when "Out of Their League" was serialized in Look, I was in a cast up to my hip. In my first high school football game as a short, mediocre quarterback, I tried to go one way, my knee had gone another, and I underwent my first knee operation.

Then when the book came out in early 1971, that passage was the start of the foreword, and it was one of the sections I highlighted with a yellow pen to read in debate and speech class. I never imagined that the author would be looking at that fluorescent-yellow passage in my copy more than two decades later.

"That was a disillusioning experience for me, that part you've got underlined, to the point that it helped me realize what I was doing," Meggyesy said. "But on the other hand, my biggest criticism was for the structure. I fully believe that the game itself is good and viable, and that if people want to play it, they should be able to play it. There's a big difference between the game itself, the generic athletic experience, and the structure of the game. If you have a coaching ethic that focuses on the need to destroy people, there's still something wrong with that—and not with the game.

"That was a misinterpretation that came out of the book, and I admit I probably contributed to creating it."

My original hardback copy of "Out of Their League" has survived 23 years of moves, spring cleanings and literary purges. The dust jacket is torn and ragged, but the price—$6.95, a major investment for a high school student in '71—hasn't

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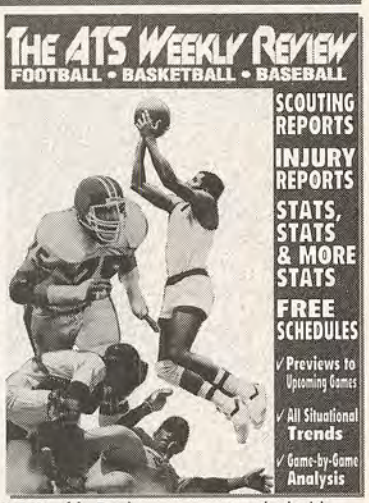

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BACK IN THEIR LEAGUE

been eaten away.

When I was reading Meggyesy's book, I was living in Eugene, Ore., a college town and the running capital of the world. The city logo should have depicted joggers weaving through protesters. The University of Oregon, like many campuses at the time, had been a cauldron. My father, Jerry Frei, was the university's football coach. The Oregon Ducks had such players as Bobby Moore (soon to be Ahmad Rashad) and Dan Fouts—and they also had several politically conscious linemen who asked to be late to practice because of protests, plus young assistant coaches named George Seifert, John Robinson and Bruce Snyder.

My father was a World War II fighter pilot, one of the last crewcut holdouts in Eugene, who nonetheless decided he wasn't going to tell his players how to wear their hair or try to dictate their politics. That said, he wasn't thrilled when I started highlighting those passages in "Out of Their League." He always thought there was room for debate, but that dropping out wasn't an answer.

I always got along with my South Eugene High School coaches, but they nonetheless were displeased when I showed Meggyesy's book to my friends and fellow athletes. It wasn't inconceivable that other football players—with far more talent—could be "contaminated."

I played baseball on that bad knee as a sophomore, stretching it out as a catcher. As the summer ended, I vacillated about playing football as a junior. Finally, I decided to skip football that fall to concentrate on getting ready for the next baseball season. A lot of my doubts involved my knee, but I also was having a hard time getting excited enough about football to picture myself jumping over the sideline huddle after we ran onto the field.

I wasn't rejecting football so much as wondering if I could embrace it. Meggyesy was part of that equation of disillusionment. It sounds hackneyed now, but at ultra-progressive South Eugene, we used to talk about things like trying to work up a hate for that guy across the line, and how silly it was to consider someone an enemy simply because his parents had liked a house in another school district. No, come to think of it, that's not hackneyed. Meggyesy was on the right track to this extent: Too often in that era, the motivation was supposed to be enmity, instilled by some coaches who wanted players to believe the stadium on Friday night was roughly the equivalent of Marv Levy's Normandy beaches.

And for a lot of coaches, "Out of Their League" was "that book."

Tim Carmichael was one of my best childhood friends and an athletic teammate for years. He was an all-league football lineman at South Eugene as a senior—after I had moved to Denver for my final year of high school—and now is a highly successful head coach at Crow High in Eugene. I say "successful" not only because his program has been one of Oregon's Class AA powers, but because I've been to his practices, classes and games, and I know that even in the years his teams haven't advanced in the state playoffs, he has been a great teacher. This is a coach who can raise his voice with the best of them, but he picks his spots.

Does he remember reading "Out of Their League"?

Why, of course, Carmichael said. Didn't I remember lending him—and several of our friends—my copy?

Oh.

"At some point, I probably thought this whole football business was symbolic of what's wrong with this country, when you consider all the rituals and cultural things tied to football," Carmichael said. "I think the book has affected me. The whole thing I got out of that was that you better treat your people with respect or in the long run it will hurt you and your players both."

We got around to an incident I still remember vividly. One of our coaches said to us: "You'll thank me for this when you're in the foxhole." We both remember looking at each other and rolling our eyes.

Carmichael laughs about taking graduate courses at Oregon and feeling almost guilty about saying he is a teacher and football coach. In some ways, as provocative as he considered Meggyesy's book more than two decades ago, he—like Meggyesy—came to accept the violence of the game as not necessarily an evil phenomenon.

"I spend a lot of time defending football now," Carmichael said. "If you go back to what Freud said, man needs a socially acceptable outlet for aggressive behavior. And I think the thing that came out of that kind of questioning period Meggyesy represents, and the thing I remember to this day, is that you have to have discipline, but that you can treat your players with respect. I have kids ask 'why?' now, and coaches went off on that years ago. Now I think there's a distinction. If you know they're asking because they aren't being smart asses or irreverent, but because they really want to understand what we're trying to do, to learn, that's the big difference nowadays. You tell them why. Or you tell them do it and we'll talk about it later."

When "Out of Their League" came out in early 1971, June Jones was a senior at Grant High School in Portland, Ore. The next fall, he also was in Eugene, starting at quarterback for the Oregon freshman team. He couldn't bring himself to invest in his own copy of "Out of Their League." But he looked one over—he thinks it was in a bookstore—and read parts of it.

"That was one of the first shock books," said Jones, who later transferred to Portland (Ore.) State and now is coach of the Atlanta Falcons, "and when you're growing up, in high school and coming to college, you're wondering if that stuff goes on in the pros.

"I never questioned football. I had my goals, and athletics by then were such an important part of my life I wanted to do whatever it took. I think the thing I learned from that time, though, and what I've tried to do all along as a coach, is care for my guys."

Jones, who caught on in the NFL as a free-agent quarterback and played three seasons for the Falcons, will go this far in agreeing with Meggyesy: There was considerable pressure to play hurt in those days. But he also says it was understood that the game never would be pain-free, and the trick was to balance compassion with competition.

"There were still some coaches who went through the '70s with an iron fist and some went by the wayside," Jones said. "But the stuff like Oklahoma drills and the real authoritarian attitude—do it my way or you're out of here—is long gone."

That was how the Woodstock era of football affected many of us—from Meggyesy and all around.

When I traveled to San Francisco last spring to catch up with Meggyesy, I stopped outside the Sailors Union building to look at the statue of Andrew Furuseth, the "emancipator of sailors," and to inspect the inscrip-

MICKI McGEE

MICKI McGEE

Dave Meggyesy appears as comfortable in his NFLPA role today (left) as he was as a football player-turned-protester. He says his age group was "right on" in the late 1960s and early 1970s—and still is.

tion: "You can put me in jail, but you cannot give me narrower quarters than as a seaman I have always had. You cannot give me coarser food than I have already eaten. You cannot make me lonelier than I have always been."

It struck me that Meggyesy, the champion of the underdog, couldn't have picked out the Sailors Union building by accident.

Meggyesy works in a small, corner office. He spends much of his time on the road. Now, when he walks into training camps, he sees many of his contemporaries in positions of power—and those men know much more about his past than union members do.

"When I started with the players association, there were a number of guys who had read my book in college, but probably not now," Meggyesy said.

Meggyesy's wife, Stacy, an influence in his disillusionment with the NFL and his political activism, died of cancer last year. He has a "lady in my life," greeting-card representative Mimi Gabriel, and he has been playing "Mr. Mom" to his 9-year-old daughter, Erin, in Berkeley. His son Chris, 31, is in medical school; his daughter Jennifer, 27, is a preschool teacher; and his son Patrick, 20, is a student and lacrosse player at the University of Pennsylvania.

After the book came out, Meggyesy lectured and spoke at workshops. Then he and his family lived on the royalties for about three years at a cabin in Durango, Colo., a refuge for the offbeat ranging from Meggyesy to Steve Carlton. Returning to the Bay Area, Meggyesy built homes and taught "Sports Consciousness and Social Change" and "The Athlete and Society" at Stanford. He had many football players in his classes. "We talked about everything from meditation techniques, to consciousness, to the political and economic realities of football—including the Stanford athletic budget," he said. "We had a couple of sessions on the coach-and-player relationship."

Bill Kellar, 38, who played one season with Kansas City and spent a second injury-marred year with the Chiefs, is director of football sports marketing for Nike. In the fall of 1977, he was a senior receiver for Stanford, which went 9-3 and beat Louisiana State in the Sun Bowl that season. Also that fall, Kellar and about seven other offensive starters took Meggyesy's "Sports Consciousness and Social Change" course.

"I still think his class is very accountable for the success we had that fall," Kellar said. "We did a lot of open discussion, and we ended up talking about a lot of things that were going on with the football team. A lot of players opened up about what made us tick, and it gave us a better appreciation for one another."

Kellar says the football players talked in Meggyesy's class about minor grievances over Stanford's plans for the bowl trip to El Paso, Tex., involving curfew time and practices. Eventually, they approached Coach Bill Walsh with their concerns "and Walsh was great. They were really little things, nothing major. It was just a question of us talking about the bowl trip as a reward, and he was fine."

Kellar says Meggyesy never tried to sour the players on the game.

"I didn't take everything Dave said as gospel, but he respected that," Kellar said. "Dave always respected your perspective and philosophy. He never expected you to fall in line and accept his opinions as the gospel. All he wanted to do is to make you think, and make your realize that if you had convictions, you should stand behind them and not be two-faced."

Kellar also remembers reading "Out of Their League." "What I got out of it was a combination of things," he said. "Football players sometimes want to be led around and don't ask questions and never ask why. But from that book, you started asking why a little bit. Coaches in general sometimes said, 'Hey, I say to hit that wall over there, so you better hit it.' Well, that book and that period could make you wonder: why? And there were little things in the game then, like you weren't supposed to drink water because that's just the way it was, that football players were supposed to be tough. You weren't expected to use your brain cells. My way or the highway. The book was saying: 'What's wrong with this picture?' "

When Kellar was finishing up his second year with the Chiefs, he remembered what Meggyesy had written about the pressure to play hurt. He said the Chiefs told him he would be activated off the injured list late in the season, but he countered that his bad shoulder wasn't ready. "They said, 'We'll numb it and you'll be OK,' " Kellar recalled. "I said, 'Hey, when this is all done, I've got to live with myself and this shoulder. I don't have to do this.' I relate that to Dave and his

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BACK IN THEIR LEAGUE

approach. You don't have to compromise your individuality, even though it's a team sport and you're pulling together. I think we reached a point where we decided it wasn't wrong to assess whether things you would do for the team were reasonable or unreasonable." (The coach of the Chiefs when Kellar refused to get "numbed" up was, interestingly enough, Marv Levy.)

Stanford eventually dropped Meggyesy, and his next football-oriented teaching was more conventional. In 1980, he coached football for a season at Tamalpais High School in Marin County. His son, Chris, attended the school, but didn't play football. Meggyesy still has a picture of that team in his office, not because it was successful in the conventional sense—it didn't win a game—but because he had a great time coaching it.

"I truly believe sports taught right are an incredible teaching component in life," he said. "The old b.s. about character-building is not that wrong. As a high school coach, you see that little sophomore kid come in. Then, by the end of the year, he's matured physically and his sense of self has gotten better—that's wonderful. That's what sports can do."

Then the NFLPA's Western job opened up.

Given Meggyesy's earlier stance on unions, the NFLPA's hiring of him was a fascinating pairing.

In "Out of Their League," Meggyesy talked about the construction job he held in the summer after his freshman year at Syracuse. "The union business agent drove up in a big white Imperial, and got out wearing a silk suit and alligator shoes," Meggyesy wrote. "He just put a card between two of his fingers and stuck it in my face. I was ready to smash him in the head with my shovel when Izzy (his boss) stepped between us."

Meggyesy told of attending some union meetings and walking away thinking the union leaders were corrupt. "I've never been opposed to unions," he wrote, "but ever since that summer, I've been opposed to most union leaders."

Also in the book, Meggyesy criticized the early NFLPA as a house union. The NFL recognized the union for collective-bargaining purposes in 1968, only after Bernie Parrish, a former player and players association officer, tried to align the players with the Teamsters. The NFL decided bargaining with a weak NFLPA would be better than dealing with a Teamsters-affiliated American Federation of Professional Athletes. Wrote Meggyesy: "The players association has no real power comparable to what the players in the league could have had if they had accepted affiliation with the Teamsters."

In 13 years with the NFLPA, Meggyesy has been through strikes, court cases, decertification, attempted formations of rival unions—and now the renaissance of the NFLPA. The NFLPA's 1982 call for a percentage of the gross, so derided then, now is official league policy. Once again, the radical and the mainstream have merged.

"We took on an incredible adversary (NFL owners and league hierarchy)," Meggyesy said. "These are the power boys. We beat their ass, pure and simple."

In some ways, the percentage of revenue—also known as the salary cap—has been a mixed bag for the players. The elite players are getting richer because of free agency and the mandating of franchise- and transition-player salaries. The cost-conscious general managers are filling around them with players they can afford—and the players on the middle rungs, plus high-priced veterans past their prime, are getting squeezed or released.

"What teams do with their $34 million nut is what they do with it," Meggyesy said. "I think it's going to take a couple of years to sort it out."

For Meggyesy, the major issue was freedom. The players now have the frequent opportunity to market themselves and choose among offers, to pick among coaches and systems—not just financial lures. "In the old days, you were literally there and if you wanted to work on the job, that's where you worked," he said. "Any excesses they wanted to perpetrate on you, they could do it. Now it's a whole different relationship. I use the word 'partnership' gingerly, but it's more of an equal footing. If one of the bottom lines in sport is producing excellence, the question is whether freedom and liberation produces that, or does restriction? I think freedom does, and that's the principle I've been operating under my whole life."

And to be fair, Meggyesy hammered away at the same issue in his book. This is what he said about the 1970 NFLPA strike in "Out of Their League": "It was good to see John Mackey's outspoken leadership . . . but it's depressing that the players' primary concern was just for money. While it is true that the players are being ripped off compared to the enormous profits most owners are making, in reality the players are being paid pretty damn well for six months' work. What is wrong with professional football is not that the players are not getting a decent wage, but the dehumanizing conditions they are required to work under."

In 1971, book reviewers said there was no way that Meggyesy could recoup the loss of his glittery $35,000 salary with "Out of Their League" royalties. Now throw the money issue aside. Has the NFL changed to the point where David Meggyesy stepping out of a time capsule wouldn't see the need to drop out?

"I think athletes are probably treated pretty differently," said Meggyesy, who briefly toyed with the idea of trying to play for Portland in the World Football League in the mid-1970s. "Thinking about it is a great reach, but, yeah, I think I probably could."

That doesn't mean he wouldn't be fighting what he views as the sporting demon of the 1990s.

"It's not the militaristic-type approach anymore as much as it's what I call technological facism, for the lack of a better term," he said. "There's such a manic emphasis on winning, it's subservient to everything else, and that's scarier than militarism because it's valueless. Now it's whatever it takes to win. The ends justify the means. When it's whatever it takes to win, you can guarantee there will be abuses, from pumping up on steroids to running the Final Four basketball teams through whatever."

For the moment, Meggyesy and the NFLPA are waging war—sorry, David, there's that military analogy again—against artificial turf. He and the NFLPA are pushing a three-part plan involving repairing the worst artificial-turf installations, maybe replacing others at outdoor stadiums and then getting rid of them all.

And he hopes the NFLPA then will attempt to unionize major-college athletes. He calls them exploited and believes until a union gets involved to protect their interests, such exploitation will continue.

MICKI McGEE

The weight of the world may not be on his shoulders—even if daughter Erin is—but Meggyesy, who now prefers "David," remains an idealist.

I usually avoid such blatant unprofessionalism, but I now have gotten autographs for myself from two men I've interviewed, rationalizing it by saying they merely were signing books.

Neil Armstrong, who walked on the moon in 1969, signed my copy of "First on the Moon," about Apollo 11. David Meggyesy, who walked away from football after the 1969 season, signed my copy of "Out of Their League."

Meggyesy's message included the following:

"Great pleasure . . . to know this book was in your life way back then. All we can say these days is 'Let's keep it moving.' " ◆

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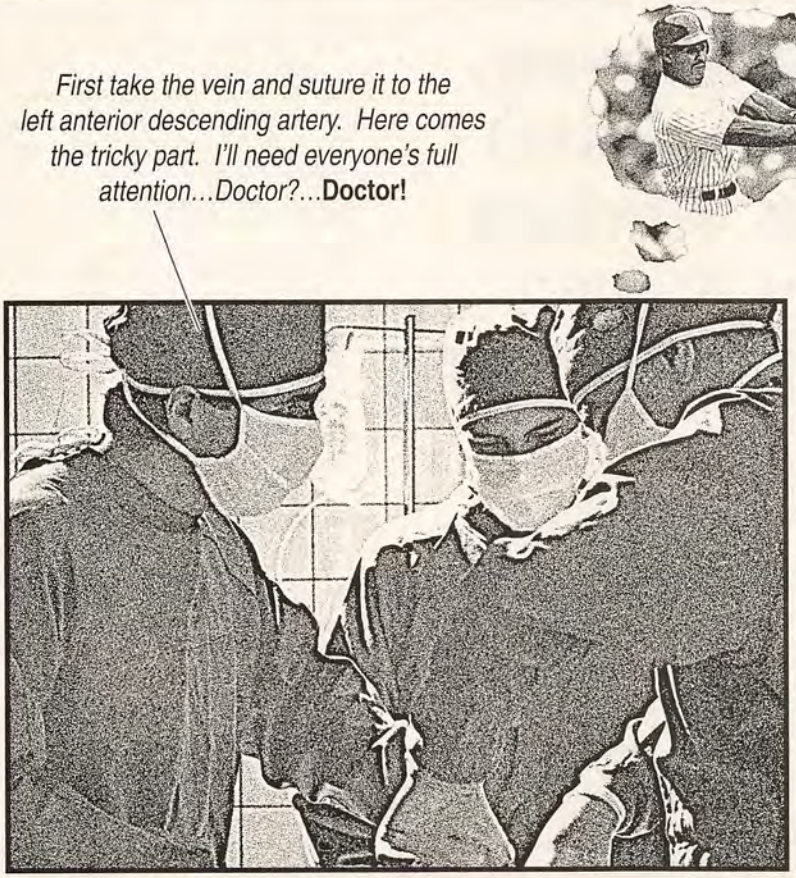

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SCOUTING THE NFL

NFL hoping to get a lift from Bart (Simpson, not Starr) in attempt to attract younger set

By VITO STELLINO
Baltimore Morning Sun

The National Football League enters a new era this season—it becomes a loss leader.

In the retailing industry, a loss leader is an item a store sells at a loss to get customers in the store to buy more expensive items.

That's what media baron Rupert Murdoch did when he authorized the Fox Network to spend $395 million per year for four years (a whopping $1.58 billion) to get the rights to the National Football Conference television package for 1994-97.

That was $100 million more per year than CBS was willing to bid for the package. When the NFL refused to let CBS enter the bidding for the American Football Conference package—it already had an agreement to keep that package on NBC for $217 million per year—CBS' 38-year marriage with the NFL went pfft.

CBS wouldn't match the Fox offer because it was losing money on the old contract when it was paying $265 million per year. It wasn't willing to go higher than $295 million.

Since Fox bid $130 million more per year than CBS was paying on its old money-losing contract, Fox may lose $500 million to $600 million on the four-year deal.

That's where the loss-leader concept comes into the picture.

Fox executives argue that NFL games will bring in more viewers to their youth-oriented TV shows, and the NFL insists the games on Fox will bring the NFL a younger audience.

Pat Bowlen, the owner of the Denver Broncos and a member of the NFL's TV committee, said, "We like (Fox's) demographics. They appeal to a younger audience, and we're looking to grow that end of our business. We're not getting the kids growing up watching our game. It's not a big erosion, but our audience is also getting a little older and Fox really does attract a younger audience. Now we'll have both."

Now we'll see if the gamble works for both sides.

Will football fans watch Bart Simpson and/or Al Bundy simply because they turn to Fox for the NFC games?

Will the young Simpson/Bundy fans watch the NFL simply because Fox also carries NFL games?

Don't be surprised if the answer to both questions is no.

Remember, in these days of the remote control, viewers are quick to change channels.

When Fox made the NFL deal in December, its major problem was that the majority of its stations were on the weaker UHF band above Channel 13. In Dallas, for example, the games were scheduled to be shown on Channel 33.

In late May, though, Murdoch made a bold move to help solve that problem when he made a $500 million investment in New World Communications Group Inc. to pick up 12 VHF stations—eight of them former CBS affiliates—in some of the major markets in the country, including such NFC markets as Dallas, Detroit, Atlanta, Tampa, Phoenix and Milwaukee. This means Cowboys games will now stay on Channel 4 in Dallas instead of switching to Channel 33.

Although Fox did hire some younger announcers, including 25-year-old Joe Buck, the son of the legendary Jack Buck, its lead announcers will be the old, familiar CBS combination of John Madden and Pat Summerall. They don't exactly bring in the Bart Simpson crowd, although Fox is paying Madden $7.5 million per year because he appeals to the traditional football fan.

The real winner may be NBC. In the past, the AFC games have drawn smaller TV audiences because they're played in smaller population markets. Last year, the NFC telecasts on CBS drew a 13.1 rating, while the AFC games on NBC netted an 11.1.

If the Fox ratings are 10 to 15 percent lower than CBS's 1993 numbers, NBC will have closed the ratings gap on Fox while paying a lot less money.

That's why the NFL and TV executives will be watching keenly this fall to see how close the Fox ratings are to the ones CBS posted last year and whether advertisers are paying the same $120,000 for a 30-second TV commercial that CBS charged in 1993. There will be a lot of money at stake in those numbers.

TWENTY-FIFTH SEASON COMING UP

All right, trivia experts, here's one for you:

Who scored the first touchdown on Monday Night Football?

If you answered Cleveland Browns wide receiver Gary Collins, you know your trivia.

On September 21, 1970, he caught an eight-yard scoring pass from Bill Nelsen in the first Monday-night game televised by ABC. Oh, by the way, the Browns beat the New York Jets, 31-21, in Cleveland.

The Monday Night Football series will celebrate its 25th season this fall. In honor of the occasion, here's another query for trivia fans: Name all the announcers who have worked on Monday Night Football.

The answer: Keith Jackson, Howard Cosell, Don Meredith, Frank Gifford, Alex Karras, Fred (The Hammer) Williamson, Fran Tarkenton, O.J. Simpson, Joe Namath, Al Michaels and Dan Dierdorf.

Many fans have forgotten that Jackson—not Gifford—worked as play-by-play man the first year. People also forget that Williamson worked the exhibition games in 1974 when Meredith quit the first time. But the Hammer was replaced for the regular-season games by Karras.

It's also hard to believe that 10 seasons have passed since Cosell last worked in the Monday Night Football booth. He was the signature voice of the popular series, the man who helped make it a phenomenon. His ad-libbing of the halftime highlights was such an event that teams complained when they weren't included.

It's also hard to remember that televising NFL games in prime time was considered a risky gamble when former commissioner Pete Rozelle first suggested it. Neither CBS nor NBC was interested.

ABC, which was then struggling, took a chance on it and Roone Arledge, who then ran its sports division, helped make it a happening along with Cosell. Arledge stuck with

Cosell, who often was voted the most popular and unpopular announcer in the nation at the same time, when there was sentiment to dump him. Love him or hate him, you could never ignore Cosell.

In its first year, Monday Night Football wasn't among the top 35 shows in prime-time ratings. By contrast, in the last four years, Monday Night Football has ranked among the top 10 prime-time programs.

There'll be a new look this year, with Brent Musburger doing a studio show and Lynn Swann handling sideline-reporting duties.

It'll never be quite the way it was in Cosell's heyday, though. He was an original. There was never anybody like him before he arrived on the sports scene, and there never has been anybody like him since he left.

BLUEPRINTS FOR SUCCESS?

The two expansion teams that will take the field in 1995, the Carolina Panthers and the Jacksonville Jaguars, will present an interesting contrast because they're illustrating two major philosophical approaches on how to build a team.

One is the strong-coach system, in which the coach operates virtually as his own general manager and makes all the major decisions.

The other is the organization system, in which the general manager and the coach share decision-making duties. The general manager usually has the final say in drafting players and the coach decides which players to keep.

Bill Walsh, who won three Super Bowls in San Francisco, and Jimmy Johnson, who won two Super Bowls in Dallas, are examples of two successful coaches who ran their own shows, although Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones likes to call himself the team's general manager.

By contrast, the Washington Redskins and the New York Giants are examples of teams that have won with an organizational structure.

Washington won three Super Bowls with its coach, Joe Gibbs, working closely with the Redskins' general managers, Bobby Beathard and Charley Casserly. The Giants won two Super Bowls with Bill Parcells working with General Manager George Young.

Parcells, who often clashed with Young, now is virtually running the show in New England, while Patrick Forte keeps a low profile as the Patriots' vice president/football operations.

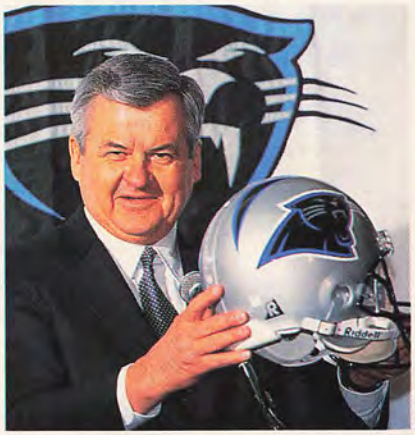
Jacksonville is going with the strong-coach system. After flirting with Jimmy Johnson before he quit as coach of the Cowboys, Owner Wayne Weaver hired former Boston College mentor Tom Coughlin to serve as coach/general manager of the Jaguars. He'll be in charge and will run all facets of the team.

By contrast, even before Charlotte was awarded a team, Owner Jerry Richardson had hired Mike McCormack to run the front office. McCormack was then given the title of team president when Bill Polian, architect of the Buffalo Bills' first three Super Bowl teams before being fired, was hired as general manager.

The Panthers have yet to hire a coach. They have courted Gibbs, but he's turned them down. Hence, Carolina has decided to wait until after the 1994 season to hire a coach, hoping Gibbs will change his mind.

Which team has the better approach? Check the standings in a couple of years.

In the meantime, Carolina has received one early edge on its expansion rival: The Panthers won a coin toss at last April's draft to determine which expansion team would make the first selection in the 1995 draft.



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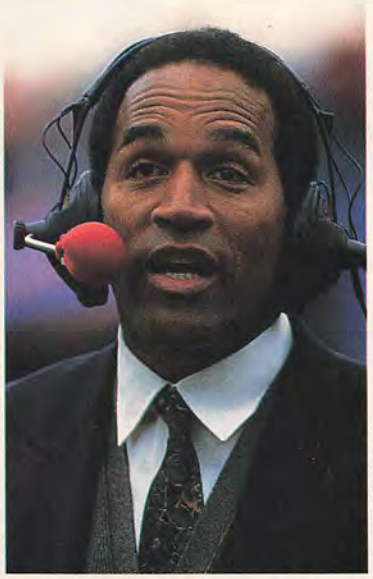
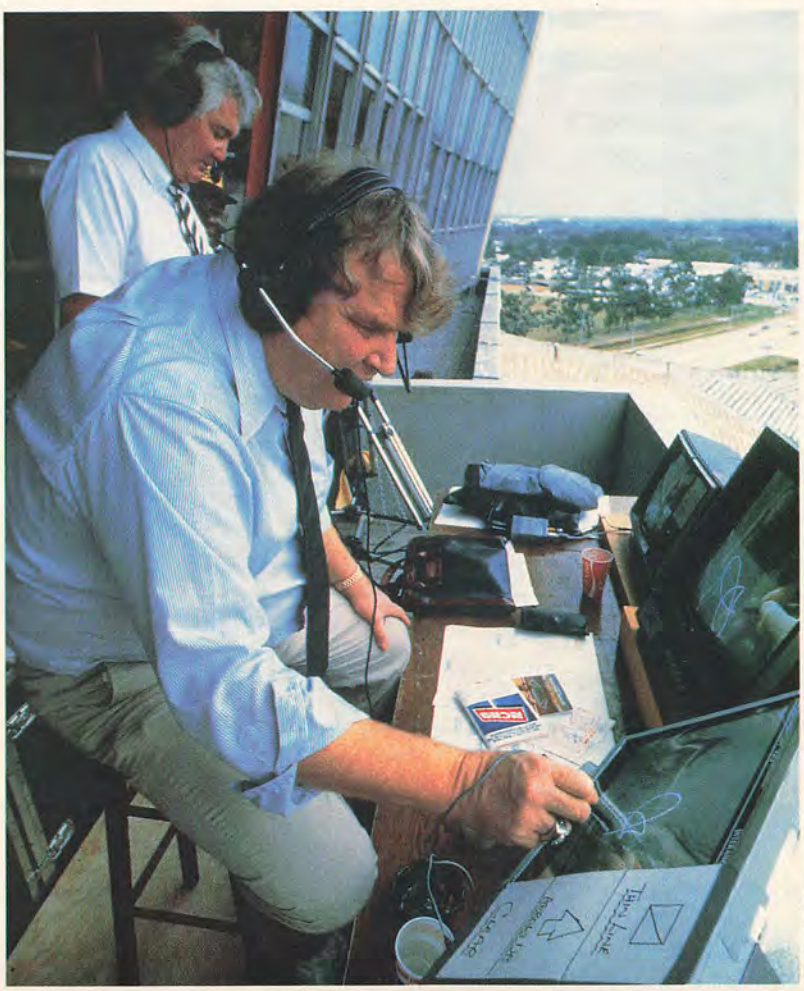


THE SPORTING NEWS

Fox's lead man on NFC telecasts will be traditional favorite John Madden (below). O.J. Simpson, one of many to serve on Monday Night Football, also is familiar to viewers, who will have to wait a year before seeing Jerry Richardson's (above, left) Carolina team on the tube.



THE SPORTING NEWS

HOME ISN'T SO SWEET

There may be no place like home, but it may be overrated in the NFL.

Even though the oddsmakers generally rate the home-field advantage as being worth three points, the home teams had only a 124-100 edge in regular-season games last year. That meant the home teams won 55.4 percent of the time.

It was a 12-game drop for the home teams, who had a 136-88 edge in 1992 when they won 60.7 percent of the time. It was the worst mark for home teams in a non-strike year since 1986, when they had only a 118-104-2 edge. Overall, the home-field advantage doesn't seem to be a huge edge.

For every Buffalo, which has been the best home team over the last six years with a 41-7 regular-season record at Rich Stadium compared with a 29-19 mark on the road, there is a Dallas. Over the last three years, the Cowboys have been 19-5 at home and a nearly equal 17-7 on the road.

Even dome teams don't always have an edge at home. While Detroit was 8-0 at home

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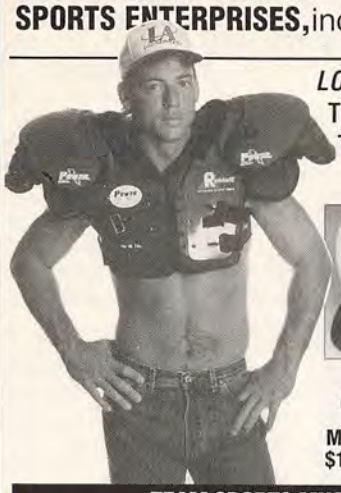

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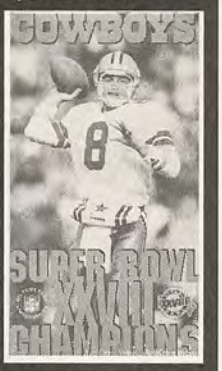

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SB-XIV- PittsburghSteelers
SB-XV- Oakland Raiders
SB-XVI- San. Fran. 49ers
SB-XVII- Wash. Redskins
SB-XVIII- L.A. Raiders
SB-XIX- San. Fran. 49ers
SB-XX- Chicago Bears
SB-XXI- New York Giants
SB-XXII- Wash. Redskins
SB-XXIII- San. Fran. 49ers
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Available in late August

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Jets	$8	Browns	$8
Packers	$8	Redskins	$10
Seahawks	$8	Broncos	$8
Steelers	$8	Lions	$8
Oilers	$8	Colts	$8
Dolphins	$8	Vikings	$8
Cardinals	$8	Bucs	$8

Call for additions #NFLYB94

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Heavyweight Knit Jersey for your favorite players of yester year. Available for:

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1965 Bears 51 Butkus (blue)
1964 Browns 32 J. Brown (white)
1971-72 Dolphins 39 Czonka (white)
1958 Colts 19 Unitas (blue)
1968 Jets 12 Namath (white)
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All New LOGO ATHLETIC SHARKTOOTH HAT

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All NFL (#SRKTNF) teams available including Carolina Panthers & Jacksonville Jaguars. **NHL** #SRKTNH Bruins, Redwings, Kings, Penguins, Black Hawks, Blues; Canadiens, Flyers, Sharks, Rangers, Ducks & Panthers. **NBA** #SRKTNB Hawks, Celtics, Hornets, Bills, Warriors, Knicks, Magic, Suns, Spurs & Supersonics. **COLLEGE** #SRKTCC Alabama, Duke, Florida, Florida St, Indiana, Miami, North Carolina, Notre Dame, Penn St, Tenn, Michigan, Nebraska, Kentucky & Wisconsin.

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Redskins 7 Theisman	Patriots 11 Bledsoe	Chargers 55 Seau
Redskins 44 Riggins	Colts 55 Coryatt	Falcons 21 Sanders
Redskins 81 Monk	Colts 90 Emtman	Falcons 80 Rison
Cowboys 8 Aikman	Bears 35 Anderson	Chiefs 19 Montana
Cowboys 22 Smith	Bears 50 Singletary	Chiefs 58 Thomas
Cowboys 84 Novacek	49ers 8 Young	Raiders 25 Biletnikoff
Cowboys 88 Irvin	49ers 16 Montana	Raiders 61 Brown
Eagles 12 Cunningham	49ers 80 Rice	Broncos 7 Elway
Giants 11 Simms	Saints 21 Hilliard	Dolphins 13 Marino
Giants 27 Hampton	Steelers 12 Bradshaw	Jets 7 Esiason
Giants 56 Taylor	Steelers 29 Foster	Jets 42 Lott
Bills 12 Kelly	Steelers 58 Lambert	Seahawks 3 Mirer
Bills 34 Thomas	Packers 4 Favre	Vikings 1 Moon
Bills 78 B. Smith	Packers 84 Sharpe	
Lions 20 Sanders	Packers 92 White	

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100% black cotton T-Shirts with Intense Mascot Design. Adult sizes: L, XL.
Item No. SSIMD **$16.00 ea.**
Available for: Cowboys, Eagles, Vikings, Chiefs, Steelers, Giants, Redskins, 49ers, Raiders, Dolphins.

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Directly embroidered hat with both team helmets, Superbowl and year on front. Side of hat features team names and SuperBowl score. Visor and button are the color of the winning team. Avail. for SuperBowls: I through XXVIII. by Roman One size fits all #FHSBH **$22.00 ea.**

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100% black cotton T-shirts with Intense NFL Helmet design. Adult sizes: L, XL.
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-Call for additions

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All New LOGO ATHLETIC HEAVYWEIGHT SHARKTOOTH JACKET with HOOD

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*Youth M/L/XL **$94.95**

Item No. LA531 color block shark's tooth design body; attached hood; full zip front; two side seam pockets; self elastic cuff and waistband; right buttonside placement of official team logo; proline identification on left sleeve; 100% soft taslan shell nylon; quiltedlining: 8ounce body; 6 ounce sleeve **NFL** teams available: *Cowboys, *Cardinals, *Packers, Bucs, Colts, *Raiders, *Dolphins, Rams, *Chiefs, *Panthers, *Jaguars, Broncos, Bears, Bills, Browns, Eagles, *49ers, *Giants, Redskins, Lions, *Steelers, Vikings. **NBA** teams available Item No. *Hornets, *Magic, *Supersonics, *Warriors, & Bulls **NHL** teams available Blackhawks, *Ducks, Devils, Penguins, Redwings, Bruins **COLLEGE** teams *Notre Dame, Michigan, Indiana, Fla St, North Carolina, Nebraska, Wisconsin **Available in August**

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You can own a piece of your favorite Superbowl with this a great item! #SBTP24

These plaques are available for all Superbowls. (13x16")

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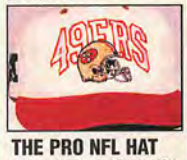

THE PRO NFL HAT

The Pro NFL Coaches Cap is 100% wool, double stitched with NFL city and team name. Direct embroidered logo in full color (All NFL teams available.) One size fits all.

$19.95ea. #NFL2CH

NFL LOGO HAT

White Cotton $17ea. #1001
Black Wool $18ea. #1001B

NEW NFL STANDING BOARD & TEAM MAGNETS

Standing boards come with flat team logo magnets and a dry-erase marker. Available in NFL, NHL, and MLB design. Size: 19 3/8" by 14 3/8". Item No. STMB **$34.95** Deluxe Standing Board (not pictured) 24" by 24" Available for NFL, NHL, & MLB Item No. STMBP **$49.95.** *New hockey board will be available by Sept*

All New LOGO ATHLETIC LIGHTWEIGHT SHARKTOOTH JACKET

Adult M/L/XL
$74.95 # LA521

Color block shrk'stooth design body; self elastic cuff and bottom band; zipfront; two side entry pockets; right front bottom side placement of official team logo; pro line identification on right sleeve; teamname on left sleeves; 100% flat taslan nylon shell; 100% nylon lining **NFL** teams available Cowboys, Cardinals, Packers, Bucs, Colts, Raiders, Solphins, Rams, Chiefs, Panthers, Jaguars, Broncos, Lions, Patriots, Oilers, Chargers **NBA** teams available Hornets, Magic, Warriors, Bills, Knicks, & Suns **NHL** teams available Ducks, Blackhawks, Panthers, Lighting. **Available in August**

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A. Pennant ...**$4ea** #TNFP (set of all 28 teams **$70.00**)#TNFPS
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All below items are Cowboys Champ items

A. Hat–$22ea #FHSBH
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An authentic Riddell helmet fitted with an ITT Trendline telephone. Mounted on 9x12" solid oak base. Touchtone or rotary dial. (please specify when ordering)

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College & Pro and WLAF teams available

AUTHENTIC PRO & MINI HELMETS

The helmet the Pros wear! Official Riddell Pro helmet. We cannot guarantee a certain size or mask.

$185.00ea #RID28
Authentic Miniature helmet. Genuine scaled down version of Pro helmet.

$79.95ea #SHNFL
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AVAILABLE FOR: by Wilson #WSBFS

SB-XX Bears vs. Patriots	$250ea
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SB-XXIII 49ers vs. Bengals	$175ea
SB-XXIV 49ers vs. Broncos	$150ea
SB-XXV Bills vs. Giants	$150ea
SB-XXVI Redskins vs. Bills	$125ea
SB-XXVII Cowboys vs. Bills	$125ea
SB-XXVIII Cowboys vs. Bills	$100ea

Buy all 9 for **$1100** Save **$400** #WSBFS
Supplies are limited!
Official Pro Bowl Football-1989 ..**$100ea**
Official NFL Football #WBG **$90ea**
Official White Panel Football #AB .**$65ea**
(for autographs)

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	#SBPG Programs	#SBCPN Pennants
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b. SB XXVIII	$12	$6
c. SB XXVII	$30	$6
d. SB XXVI	$20	$7
e. SB XXV	$20	$8
f. SB XXIV	$25	$9
g. SB XXIII	$25	$10
h. SB XXII	$25	$10
i. SB XXI	$25	$10
j. SB XX	$50	$10
k. SB XIX	$30	$10
l. SB XVIII	$30	$11
m. SB XVII	$30	$13
n. SB XVI	$35	$16
o.SB XV	$35	not avail

SUPERBOWL PINS

Buy your favorite Super Bowl pins individually for just **$10.00ea #PD1**

Or for **$260** you can have a complete set of all 28 pins in a beautifully framed glass display. #PDSS
by Peter David

and 4-4 on the road in 1991, New Orleans' home record of 31-17 in the last six years is only slightly better than its 27-21 mark on the road over that span.

VANISHING BREED

Where in the name of Paul Brown have all the great coaches gone?

Since the end of the 1988 season, Bill Walsh, Tom Landry, Chuck Noll, Joe Gibbs and Jimmy Johnson all have departed the NFL, although Johnson figures to return in 1995.

Meanwhile, Don Shula is the only certain Hall of Famer in the current coaching ranks. He has posted gaudy numbers (327 all-time victories), but longevity has helped. While he passed George Halas in total victories last year, Shula hasn't won a Super Bowl since the 1973 season. And he lost his last five games of 1993. Halas never lost five in a row.

Shula, who has been an NFL head coach since 1963 (31 seasons), has been coaching the Miami Dolphins since 1970. Although Chuck Knox of the Los Angeles Rams has been an NFL head coach since 1973 (21 seasons), Buffalo's Marv Levy and New Orleans' Jim Mora are second in longevity with the same team—and they've been coaching their clubs only since 1986.

Landry shares the NFL record for coaching the same team for the most consecutive years, 29, having led the Cowboys from 1960-88. Curly Lambeau guided the Packers from 1921-49.

Shula will start his 25th consecutive season with the Dolphins this year, while Steve Owen of the New York Giants (1931-53) and Noll of the Steelers (1969-91) each coached his club 23 straight years. Halas coached the Bears 40 years, but he did it over four 10-year stints.

Bud Grant, who coached the Vikings for 17 straight years, 1967-83, before taking a year off and returning in 1985, is next in line.

Overall, coaching is not a good profession if you want to retire with a gold watch.

ON THE HOT SEAT

The posteriors of these coaches could heat up in 1994:

- Bill Belichick, Cleveland. He'll never live down his firing of Bernie Kosar.
- Ted Marchibroda, Indianapolis. Bill Tobin, the Colts' vice president/director of football operations, already has his brother, Vince, waiting in the wings as the team's defensive coordinator.
- Rich Kotite, Philadelphia. New Owner Jeff Lurie would like to have a big name (hint, Jimmy Johnson) at the helm.
- Sam Wyche, Tampa Bay. Jimmy Johnson would like to coach in Florida.
- George Seifert, San Francisco. You think he'd be safe with a glittering 67-20 career regular-season mark, but Owner Eddie DeBartolo will be unhappy if Seifert doesn't win Super Bowl XXIX.
- Chuck Knox, Los Angeles Rams. If the team moves, the Rams may want a new look on the sidelines.

WAKE ME UP AT HALFTIME

Indianapolis played not one, not two, but three 9-6 games last year. And the Colts, who finished 4-12, won all three contests.

SCOUTING THE NFL

Those games were a symbol of what a boring year it was on the field. There were 200 fewer touchdowns scored last season than in 1983. In 1993, 24.1 percent of the points scored were via field goals, which was a record.

On that note, it was suggested that the NFL change its name to the NFGL—the National Field Goal League.

So what did the NFL do about the scoring problem?

The league instituted the two-point conversion, which was long overdue but won't necessarily spur teams to go for a touchdown unless they're eight points down in the fourth quarter.

The league also decided that when a team misses a field-goal attempt, the opposing team will get the ball at the point where the kick was tried, not at the line of scrimmage. All that will do is encourage teams to punt.

The NFL also will push kickoffs back from the 35- to the 30-yard line and limit kickers to one-inch tees. Both changes figure to give teams better field position.

Despite those moves, the league still has not solved the problem of teams settling for field goals instead of touchdowns inside the 20-yard line. The culprit is the zone defense. When offenses enter the red zone, defenses enter a zone alignment, which clogs the field so the offenses don't have room to operate.

The logical answer would be to extend the end zone another five to 10 yards, but that's not feasible in some stadiums.

Another alternative would be to ban zone defenses inside the 20, but it would put another burden on the officials. It's also difficult to get rule changes passed because it takes 21 owners to approve them and they're reluctant to make changes when the game is so popular.

Right now, owners are going to use the crossed-fingers solution. They'll just cross their fingers and hope the offenses figure out a way to penetrate the defenses.

TUNED IN

The five best TV announcers:

1. John Madden. The $7.5-million man sets the standard.
2. Pat Summerall. His low-key approach complements Madden.
3. Dick Enberg. He never loses his poise.
4. Verne Lundquist. He keeps on top of the game.
5. Joe Gibbs. Ex-Washington coach was the rookie of the year last season.

SCRAMBLED SIGNALS

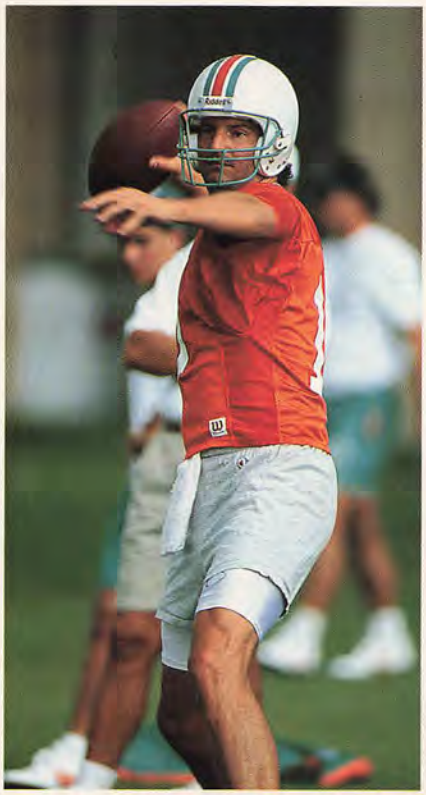
The five most overrated TV announcers:

1. Joe Theismann. He can't stop talking.
2. Frank Gifford. It's time for Frank to stay home with the kids.
3. Pat Haden. He's always stating the obvious.
4. Paul Maguire. Is he a comedian or what?
5. Bob Trumpy. He beats a subject to death.

STAR SEARCH

Five superstars of the future:

1. Drew Bledsoe, New England. The next great quarterback.



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Backup quarterbacks don't get much better than Miami's Bernie Kosar, a coach on the field.

SCOUTING THE NFL

2. Jerome Bettis, L.A. Rams. How did he last to the 10th slot in the 1993 draft?

3. Scott Mitchell, Detroit. All he needs is a chance to play, and the former Miami Dolphin is going to get it.

4. Willie Roaf, New Orleans. A bookend offensive tackle for years to come.

5. Rick Mirer, Seattle. How could Lou Holtz fail to win a national title with Mirer, Bettis, Reggie Brooks, Tom Carter, Irv Smith, Bryant Young, Aaron Taylor, Jeff Burris, et al.?

HIT MEN

The NFL's five hardest hitters:

1. Chuck Cecil, Arizona.
2. Andre Waters, Philadelphia.
3. Junior Seau, San Diego.
4. Dennis Smith, Denver.
5. Greg Lloyd, Pittsburgh.

TALKING CLIPBOARDS, VISORS AND SUNSCREEN

The five best backup quarterbacks:

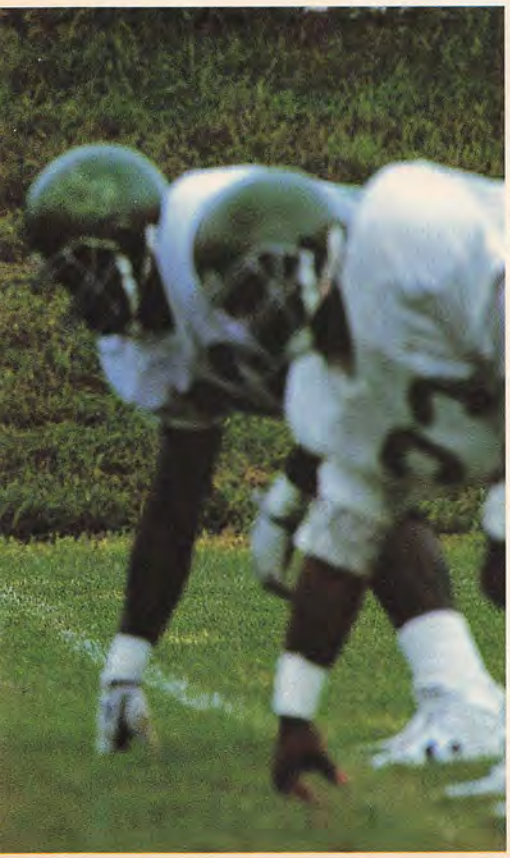
1. Frank Reich, Buffalo. He has the talent and temperament for the job.
2. Bernie Kosar, Miami. The former Hurricane is a coach on the field.
3. Mark Rypien, Cleveland. Remember, he was the MVP of Super Bowl XXVI.
4. Steve Bono, Kansas City. He's back in a familiar role behind Joe Montana.
5. Bobby Hebert, Atlanta. He can be effective if he overcomes arm troubles.

SUITING UP FOR BATTLE

What's in a name? The answer in the NFL these days is a lawsuit.

The NFL sued Baltimore's new Canadian Football League team for calling itself the CFL Colts, but then found itself being sued by Jaguar Cars Ltd. because the auto company claimed the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars' logo (a leaping cat) too closely resembles its logo.

The NFL now finds itself arguing both sides of the issue. More work for its lawyers.



THE SPORTING NEWS

Despite his gaudy record, George Seifert (right) could feel the heat in San Francisco. Meanwhile, the Eagles' Rich Kotite might have to lie low if new Owner Jeff Lurie goes after a big-name coach.

A MAN FOR ALL ERAS

It's always popular to reminisce about the good ol' days in the NFL and talk about how players today don't shape up with the players of yesteryear. There are frequent complaints that in this day of situation substitutions, the game doesn't have the warriors it once possessed.

But advocates of today's game can always bring up Dallas running back Emmitt Smith. He showed last year in the regular-season finale against the New York Giants—when he played the whole second half and overtime with a separated shoulder and still led his team to a 16-13 victory in Giants Stadium—that he could have played in any era.

When his teammates asked Smith during the game how his shoulder felt, he simply winced and said, "You don't want to know."

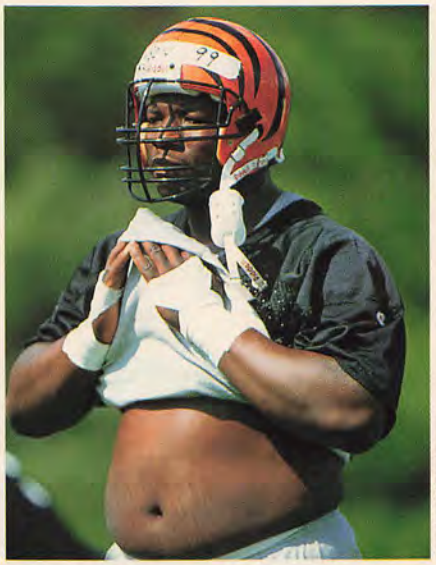
CHEAP LABOR

The advent of free agency in the NFL has taken some of the luster away from the college draft. Why? Because the big-name free agents often overshadow the rookies who are drafted.

That doesn't mean the draft isn't as important as it used to be. In some ways, it's more important.

That's because the college players are fairly inexpensive now that the league has a rookie-salary pool. If a team drafts well, it can add seven rookies to the roster for a little more than $2 million—which is less than the cost of some good free agents. The teams also possess the rookies for four years before they're eligible for free agency.

"I still think it's the lifeblood of the league," Giants General Manager George Young said. "You have to have players with lesser salaries on your team to be able to afford the higher-salaried players."



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

The gut feeling is that the Bengals drafted very well—thanks to Dan Wilkinson, among others.

THE SPORTING NEWS

DRAFT WINNERS

San Francisco. The 49ers enjoyed a draft that could make them Super Bowl champions again. In the first round, they traded up to select Notre Dame defensive tackle Bryant Young and traded down to draft the fullback, Florida State's William Floyd, who is supposed to replace aging Tom Rathman. San Francisco also added two second-round picks, including Virginia Tech cornerback Tyronne Drakeford, who may start. And, in the third round, the 49ers picked up the best kicker in the draft, California's Doug Brien, who should replace the inconsistent Mike Cofer.

Cincinnati. It's easy to look good when you've got the first overall pick in the draft and there's a player who is a no-brainer No. 1 selection, Ohio State defensive tackle Dan (Big Daddy) Wilkinson. But the Bengals also helped their offense by nabbing San Diego State wide receiver Darnay Scott in the second round and Ohio State fullback Jeff Cothran in the third round. In the fourth round, Cincinnati went back to defense, choosing Florida State cornerback Corey Sawyer.

Continued

SCOUTING THE NFL

Tampa Bay. The Buccaneers figured they would have to trade up to draft Fresno State quarterback Trent Dilfer, but he was available with the sixth overall pick when Indianapolis and the L.A. Rams bypassed him. Tampa Bay's second-round selection, Florida running back Errict Rhett, should have an immediate impact. Now Sam Wyche has to hope he's not developing Dilfer for Jimmy Johnson.

DRAFT LOSERS

Dallas. During the telecast of the April draft, new Coach Barry Switzer was caught yawning on camera. Maybe he figures the draft doesn't matter as long as he has Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith. Meanwhile, Jerry Jones wanted to prove he could handle the draft without Jimmy Johnson at his side. Instead, he showed he's no Jimmy Johnson. He traded up in the first round (from No. 28 to 23) and picked Arizona State defensive end Shante Carver, a questionable selection who probably would have been available with the 28th pick. He also failed to trade wide receiver Alvin Harper, who figures to leave Dallas at the end of this season. Fortunately for the Cowboys, they don't need immediate help—because they won't get it from this draft class.

Indianapolis. The Colts gave up a third-round pick to move up two spots in the first round and draft Nebraska linebacker Trev Alberts, even though he likely would have been available with the seventh overall pick. In making that selection, Indianapolis bypassed Fresno State quarterback Trent Dilfer. Why, because Bill Tobin still is trying to prove Jim Harbaugh, a free-agent signee and the quarterback Tobin drafted in 1987 for Chicago, is a good NFL signal-caller despite evidence to the contrary over the last seven seasons. Tobin tried to make ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. the issue by blasting Kiper for criticizing Tobin's decision to pass on drafting Dilfer. Now it's Harbaugh who has the burden of proving he can play better than he did in Chicago, because teams are going to be keying on the Colts' top pick, San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk.

Philadelphia. The Eagles keep collecting draft picks for players they lose in free agency, but they don't put them to good use. They took underachieving Georgia offensive tackle Bernard Williams in the first round. In the second round, Philadelphia chose UCLA defensive tackle Bruce Walker, who didn't play for the Bruins last season after being kicked off the squad for disciplinary reasons, and Tennessee running back Charlie Garner, who flunked a drug test at the NFL scouting combine. All three picks are gambles that could backfire. The Eagles did make one bold move when they offered Randall Cunningham—who has only one playoff victory on his resume—in a trade in an attempt to move up in the draft to select Dilfer, but they couldn't pull it off.

BEST BETS

Five things you'll see happen this year:

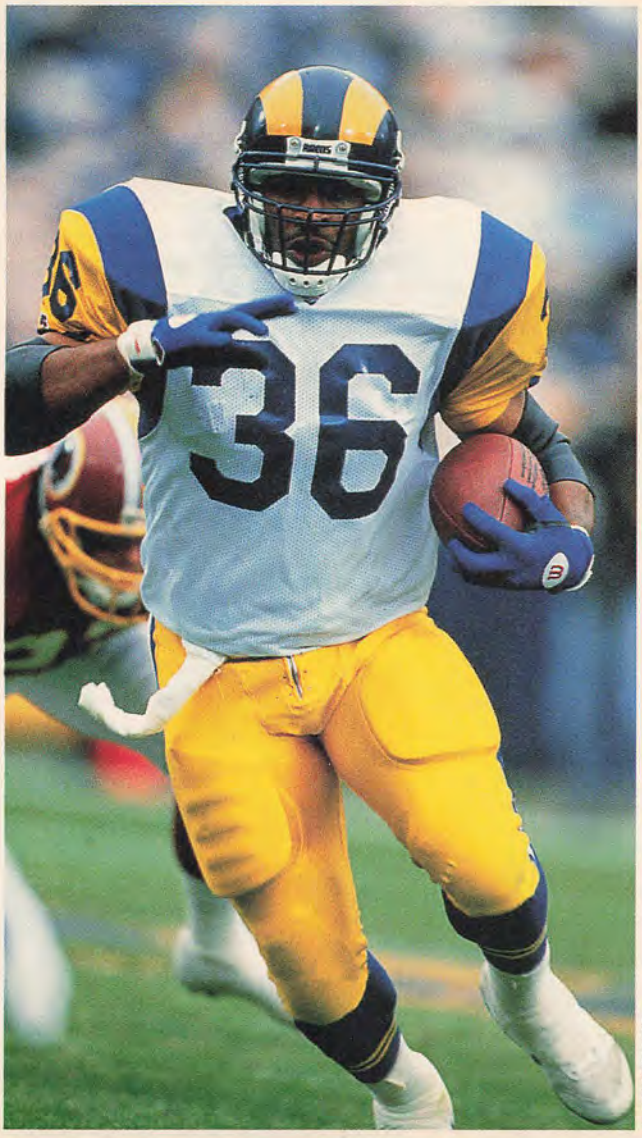
1. Dallas will fail in its bid for a third straight Super Bowl victory. The Cowboys wouldn't have done it even if Jimmy Johnson hadn't left because everything doesn't go right three years in a row.

2. Joe Montana will get injured. He no longer can take the beating of a 16-game season.

3. Jerome Bettis will rush for more than 1,750 yards for the Los Angeles Rams as Chuck Knox resurrects his "Ground Chuck" offense.

4. Detroit's Barry Sanders will continue to be the best player of his era not to play in a Super Bowl.

5. Without Warren Moon, who now quarterbacks the Minnesota Vikings, the Houston Oilers will miss the playoffs for the first time since the 1986 season.◆

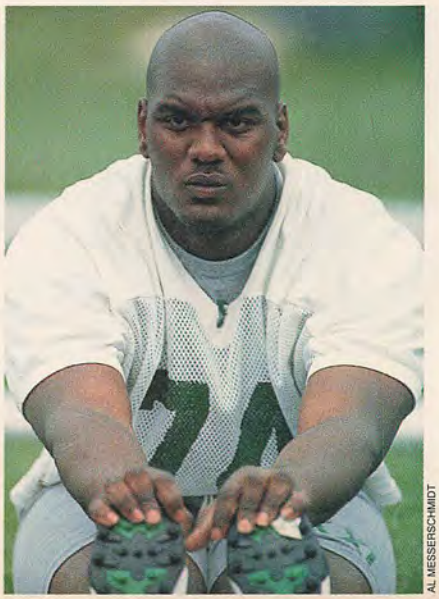


AL BELLO/ALLSPORT

Jerome Bettis figures to put the beef in the Rams' "Ground Chuck" offense. He just might surpass 1,750 yards.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

Houston won't achieve much without its No. 1 man, Warren Moon (above), now in Minnesota. The Eagles' hopes are so-so, considering such underachieving draftees as Bernard Williams.



AL MESSERSCHMIDT

SCOUTING THE AFC

Shula may be the answer to AFC's Super Bowl woes

By JEFF SCHUDEL
News-Herald

Hey! Why didn't the beleaguered American Football Conference think of this before?

Instead of sending any man or any team to halt the National Conference's domination (10 consecutive victories) in the Super Bowl, why not send *the* man, Don Shula, and his Miami Dolphins? After all, Super Bowl XXIX will even be played in Miami next January.

Shula, the winningest coach in NFL history and a two-time Super Bowl victor, is one of only two active AFC coaches to win the league's showcase game. Seattle's Tom Flores, who won two Super Bowls while with the Raiders, is the other.

Shula and the Dolphins appeared en route to the AFC East title last year until Dan Marino tore an Achilles tendon on October 10 in Cleveland. If Marino can pick up where he left off, he should get his second shot at a Super Bowl ring.

The AFC West belongs to the Denver Broncos, the one team that could derail Miami's Super Bowl express. Marino and Denver's John Elway are part of that stellar group of quarterbacks from the 1983 draft—signal-callers who have never won a Super Bowl. And time is running out.

The biggest difference between Miami and Denver is that the Dolphins should be strong defensively despite some losses via free agency. The Broncos, meanwhile, will have five or six new starters on defense.

Pittsburgh will win a weak Central Division and once again be greeted rudely in the playoffs. It takes more than Barry Foster to advance in the NFL's postseason.

PRO BOWL PICKS

Quarterback: John Elway, Broncos. It isn't just Denver's thin air that makes Elway the AFC's Top Gun.

Running backs: Thurman Thomas, Bills, and Gary Brown, Oilers. Thomas and Brown will have enough frequent ground miles to earn a free trip to Hawaii.

Wide receivers: Tim Brown, Raiders, and Anthony Miller, Broncos. Brown and Miller are common names, but nothing is common about the way these guys catch footballs.

TOM BERG

Dan Marino is headed for a Super comeback.

Tight end: Shannon Sharpe, Broncos. The best tight end in football is redefining the position.

Center: Dermontti Dawson, Steelers. Dawson makes nose tackles around the league think about getting into a different line of work.

Guards: Dwayne White, Jets, and Bruce Matthews, Oilers. Life for running backs is much easier when White and Matthews clear the way.

Tackles: Tony Jones, Browns, and Richmond Webb, Dolphins. Lloyd's of London can't provide insurance policies like the ones Jones and Webb give their quarterbacks.

Nose tackle: Cortez Kennedy, Seahawks. Another Kennedy rules Washington, but this time not in D.C.

Defensive ends: Neil Smith, Chiefs, and Bruce Smith, Bills. Unlike the cough-drop guys, these Smiths leave quarterbacks ailing.

Outside linebackers: Derrick Thomas, Chiefs, and Greg Lloyd, Steelers. Third-and-long plays might as well be the Grand Canyon when Thomas and Lloyd stand in the way of a first down.

Inside linebackers: Junior Seau, Chargers, and Vincent Brown, Patriots. Better to swim in shark-infested waters than try to run inside when Seau and Brown smell the blood of a running back.

Cornerbacks: Nate Odomes, Seahawks, and Cris Dishman, Oilers. If quarterbacks were smart, they would view the areas in which Odomes and Dishman play as no-passing zones.

Safeties: Stevon Moore, Browns, and Marcus Robertson, Oilers. Receivers look over their shoulders and through the earholes on their helmets after a couple of hits from Moore and Robertson.

Place-kicker: Jeff Jaeger, Raiders. When the Raiders have to dial long distance, Jaeger is usually there to answer the call.

Punter: Rohn Stark, Colts. Stark is a special-teams coach's delight. He kicks high and deep and doesn't get his punts blocked.

Return specialist: Eric Metcalf, Browns. Metcalf stars in "Lethal Weapon 4" whenever an opponent kicks the ball.

The Sporting News PREDICTIONS

Based on a poll of THE SPORTING NEWS' staff.

AFC EAST

1. **Miami:** Dan Marino gets another shot at the Super Bowl.
2. **Buffalo:** The Bills will stampede to the playoffs again.
3. **New England:** A .500 record is the next plateau for Bill Parcells.
4. **N.Y. Jets:** G.M. Dick Steinberg saves his job with another rebuilding program.
5. **Indianapolis:** Jim Harbaugh isn't the answer at quarterback.

AFC CENTRAL

1. **Pittsburgh:** The Steelers have to find a way to win on grass.
2. **Houston:** Unfortunately for the Oilers, salary caps don't come in extra large.
3. **Cleveland:** This could be the Browns' breakthrough season.
4. **Cincinnati:** Bengals fans better pray that David Klingler isn't a clinker.

AFC WEST

1. **Denver:** If Miami falters, the Broncos will go to the Super Bowl.
2. **Kansas City:** One last chance for Montana to show he's still Super Joe.
3. **San Diego:** There's nothing wrong here that a good quarterback wouldn't cure.
4. **L.A. Raiders:** The Raiders are in for a year of inexplicable frustration.
5. **Seattle:** The NFL's toughest division will keep the Seahawks down.

AFC CHAMPION: MIAMI

AWARD WINNERS

Offensive Player of the Year: Elway, Broncos. Someone should tell him that it isn't polite to keep getting better with age.

Defensive Player of the Year: Kennedy, Seahawks. No one in the AFC can dominate on defense the way he can.

Rookie of the Year: Marshall Faulk, Colts. The NFL is just a stutter-step away from San Diego State for the speedy 200-pound running back.

Comeback Player of the Year: Dan Marino, Dolphins. The crutches are gone but the cannon on his right shoulder isn't.

Coach of the Year: Don Shula, Dolphins. So the game has passed him by, huh? Yeah, right. ◆

Bills want fifth Super Bowl trip, not sympathy

By VIC CARUCCI
Buffalo News

Ralph Wilson says he doesn't want anyone's sympathy for the Bills' four consecutive Super Bowl losses.

In fact, the Bills' president and owner has had T-shirts made up that say, "Don't Feel Sorry for Me," along with the Bills' logo and a line that reads: "1988-1993 80 Wins."

Wilson gave the shirts to friends and club employees, but he mainly wanted one for himself. And he wears it with pride.

"I just got so tired of people, since that last (Super Bowl) game against Dallas, saying, 'Oh, I'm so sorry, Ralph,' " Wilson said. "Who's won more games than the Bills in the last five years? Nobody."

Indeed, the Bills are a team at which one can't help but marvel. Not just because they made National Football League history as the first club to reach—and lose—four Super Bowls in a row, but because of their incredible resilience. Consider that on their way to their last Super Bowl appearance, the Bills overcame the firing of general manager Bill Polian and resignation of assistant G.M. Bob Ferguson, the free-agency loss of left offensive tackle Will Wolford and inside linebackers Shane Conlan and Carlton Bailey, and not one but two deficits against the Raiders in the playoffs.

Now, the Bills face not only the—dare we say it?—impossible task of reaching a fifth consecutive Super Bowl, but they also must do so without right offensive tackle Howard Ballard and right cornerback Nate Odomes, both of whom bolted for Seattle in free agency.

"The best position for us to be in is when people again say that we don't have a chance to repeat," quarterback Jim Kelly said. "We have to get the real one for the thumb. I'm not finished yet."

COACHING

Wilson shook his head as he pondered the rift that led to the separation of Cowboys Owner Jerry Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson. He couldn't understand how such animosity could exist at the top of a team that won consecutive Super Bowls. After losing four in a row, Wilson said Levy could keep his job "for as long as he wants."

GEORGE GOURDVICH

It's possible the punishment of 2,006 carries and 361 receptions over the last six seasons finally is catching up to Thurman Thomas.

Still, Levy doesn't appear to be taking his security for granted. He wants to bring the big play back to the Bills' no-huddle offense. His player-personnel department did its part by finding speedy receivers in the draft. And his assistant coaches have done their part by constructing a playbook that places greater emphasis on the vertical game, which faded from the Bills' offense last season.

Levy also is still frustrated by the problems his defensive front had last season against bigger, more powerful offensive lines. He is more determined than ever to rotate his defensive linemen and is giving serious thought to switching from a three- to a four-man line.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—At 34, Kelly finds himself as the oldest player on the team. And he remains the key to its offensive fortunes.

Despite preseason concerns about knee problems that bothered him late in 1992, Kelly enjoyed mostly good health last year. His throwing arm, which also had prompted concern in '92, seemed as lively as ever.

Kelly will have to stay injury-free for most, if not all, of this season if the Bills are to have a chance to win another AFC crown. Buffalo fans were glad he was able to avoid off-season surgery on his shoulder, which still could haunt him in '94. Frank Reich continues to be one of the more reliable No. 2 quarterbacks in the league, but his best work is done in short-term, clutch situations. He doesn't have Kelly's risk-taking tendencies or strong arm.

Kelly was at the top of his game during last season's stretch run. In leading the Bills to a pair of postseason victories, Kelly connected on 68.8 percent of his passes without throwing an interception. Kelly also gave a fairly good showing in the Super Bowl.

RUNNING BACKS—For Bills fans, the most enduring image from the 1994 Super Bowl is not of the second of Thurman Thomas' two fumbles, which was returned for a touchdown and forever turned the game in the Cowboys' favor. It is of Thomas' reaction to the turnover—his prolonged fit of rage on the sideline, followed by burying his face in his hands while sitting on the bench. Many observers contend the rest of the Bills joined Thomas in his funk, and that led to the team's second-half collapse.

For the third consecutive Super Bowl, Thomas struggled badly. The fumbles were one thing, but he also was ineffective even when he hung onto the ball.

It's possible the physical punishment of 2,006 carries and 361 receptions over the last six seasons finally is catching up with him. In 1993, the overall production of Buffalo's rushing attack dropped by an average of nearly 31 yards per game and close to a yard

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Bills still have a strong possession-type passing game with tight end Pete Metzelaars, their leading receiver last year, and wide receiver Bill Brooks, their No. 2 receiver in 1993. And they should be even more effective passing with rookies Bucky Brooks, a speedy wide receiver, and Lonnie Johnson, a fast tight end.

Weaknesses: The Bills overcame the free-agency loss of left tackle Will Wolford last season, with John Fina performing remarkably well as a first-year starter. But they could be pressing their luck with the free-agency loss of right tackle Howard Ballard. Jerry Crafts, who isn't the athlete Fina is, might be over his head as a starter. The defensive line continues to be vulnerable to big, powerful offensive lines. Depth is a problem in the secondary and on both lines.

Keys to success: The defense must be every bit as opportunistic as it was last year, when it led the NFL with 47 takeaways. It is critical for Jim Kelly to remain healthy and come up with more big plays than last year. Thurman Thomas must have his usual big season rushing and become an even larger factor in the passing game than he was in '93.

That's a fact: Bruce Smith is the NFL's all-time leader in postseason sacks with 12 in 16 games. Richard Dent is second with 10½ in 10 games, followed by Charles Mann with 10 in 15 games.

Coach Marv Levy says: "To make a prediction, if we win a (Super Bowl) championship along the way—and that's what we intend to do—Thurman Thomas will be very instrumental in our doing it."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Beebe	Bi. Brooks	Tasker
LT	Fina	Lacina	
LG	Parker	Ostroski	
C	Hull	Devlin	Lingner
RG	J. Davis	Ostroski	
RT	Crafts	Lacina	Louchiey
TE	Metzelaars	Johnson	Marrow
WR	Reed	Bu. Brooks	Copeland
QB	Kelly	Reich	Rodgers
RB	Thomas	K. Davis	
FB	Gardner	Turner	

DEFENSE

LE	Hansen	Barnett	Pike
NT	Wright	Parrella	Lodish
RE	B. Smith	Barnett	J. Patton
LOLB	Bennett	Rogers	
LILB	Maddox	Goganious	Brown
RILB	M. Patton	Goganious	Brown
ROLB	Talley	Perry	
LCB	Washington	Henderson	
RCB	T. Smith	Burris	
SS	Jones	Schulz	
FS	Darby	Schulz	

SPECIALISTS

K	Christie	KR	K. Davis
P	Mohr	PR	Copeland

RICHARD GENTILE

Despite lacking experience, John Fina did an excellent job in place of Will Wolford at left tackle.

per carry.

Kenneth Davis is an exceptional backup and arguably the better open-field runner of the two. But Thomas' talents as a runner and receiver still put him in a league of his own. He was brilliant in the AFC championship game against Kansas City, with season highs of 186 yards, a 5.6 yards-per-carry average and three touchdowns.

Carwell Gardner was pushed hard by Nate Turner for the starting fullback job in last year's training camp, and the position could change hands.

RECEIVERS—After watching their average reception fall from 12.6 yards to 11.6 last season, the Bills are desperate for a game-breaker here. And the Bills hope they have found one in Bucky Brooks, a second-round pick from North Carolina who has been timed at 4.3 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

The Bills would like to utilize Brooks as a third or fourth wide receiver and try to stretch defenses with Brooks on one side and incumbent speedster Don Beebe on the other.

The Bills also plan to use Andre Reed, who is still their best receiver, from the outside more often. Reed has worked mostly from the slot, and the coaches say that limits his ability to get open.

One more possible boost to Buffalo's passing game is another second-round choice, tight end Lonnie Johnson from Florida State. Johnson's sub-4.7 speed could give the Bills the deep threat they haven't had at the position since Keith McKeller's peak seasons in 1990 and '91. McKeller is gone. And the only proven tight end on Buffalo's roster is Pete Metzelaars, who wound up leading the team last season with 68 receptions because, with no big-play threat, defenses usually took away the deep pattern and gladly gave up short and medium routes.

Bill Brooks made a big impact after joining the Bills as an unrestricted free agent from Indianapolis, ranking second on the team with 60 catches. But he isn't a burner.

LINEMEN—The offensive line must overcome yet another dreadful showing in the Super Bowl. And it will be even tougher with Ballard gone. His replacement, Jerry Crafts, has plenty of size, but tends to carry too much weight on his 6-foot-6 frame—maxing out at 358 pounds—and that could make him too slow to deal with speedy pass rushers. The Bills wanted him to shed more than 20 pounds by training camp.

On the bright side, John Fina, despite lacking experience, did an excellent job in place of Will Wolford at left tackle. Fina kept sacks and penalties to a minimum, even in the postseason. And, after two off-seasons of hard work in the team's strength and conditioning program, he should have even more power to go along with his exceptional quickness and agility.

Jim Ritcher, who had been a fixture at left guard, is gone. His age (36) and severe shoulder problems finally drove him off the roster. Late in 1993, Glenn Parker took Ritcher's place and made steady improvement. He doesn't have Ritcher's pulling ability, but he significantly upgrades the Bills' in-

Continued

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BUFFALO BILLS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Marv Levy.

Assistant coaches: • Tom Bresnahan (offensive coordinator/offensive line) • Walt Corey (defensive coordinator/ linebackers) • Bruce DeHaven (special teams) • Charlie Joiner (wide receivers) • Rusty Jones (strength and conditioning) • Don Lawrence (offensive quality control/tight ends) • Chuck Lester (assistant linebackers) • Elijah Pitts (assistant head coach/running backs) • Dick Roach (defensive backs) • Dan Sekanovich (defensive line) • Jim Shofner (quarterbacks).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 12-4 (1st in AFC East); 7-1 in division; 8-4 in conference; 6-2 at home; 6-2 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Raiders, 29-23, in AFC divisional playoff game; defeated Chiefs, 30-13, in AFC championship game; lost to Cowboys, 30-13, in Super Bowl.
Levy's regular-season record: 79-39 in eight seasons with Bills; 110-81 overall in 13 seasons with Bills and Chiefs.
Levy's postseason record: 10-6 in six playoffs with Bills (0-4 in Super Bowls).
Team record last five years: 58-22 (.725, ranks 2nd in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	4	6
Rushing offense	3	8
Passing offense	7	11
Scoring offense	4	7
Total defense	13	27
Rushing defense	11	21
Passing defense	11	24
Scoring defense	2	5
Takeaways	1	1
Giveaways	T11	T23
Turnover differential	2	2
Sacks	7	14
Sacks allowed	5	T7

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Jeff Burris	CB	Notre Dame
2nd	Bucky Brooks	WR	North Carolina
2nd	Lonnie Johnson	TE	Florida State
2nd	Sam Rogers	LB	Colorado
3rd	Marlo Perry	LB	Jackson State
3rd	Corey Louchiey	T	South Carolina
4th	Sean Crocker	DB	North Carolina
5th	A.J. Ofodile	TE	Missouri
6th	Anthony Abrams	DE	Clark (Ga.)
6th	Kevin Knox	WR	Florida State
7th	Filmel Johnson	DB	Illinois

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	N.Y. JETS	4:00
Sept. 11	at New England	1:00
Sept. 18	at Houston	12:00
Sept. 26	DENVER (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 2	at Chicago	3:00
Oct. 9	MIAMI	1:00
Oct. 16	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Oct. 23	Open date	
Oct. 30	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Nov. 6	at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Nov. 14	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	9:00
Nov. 20	GREEN BAY	1:00
Nov. 24	at Detroit (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec. 4	at Miami	8:00
Dec. 11	MINNESOTA	1:00
Dec. 18	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Dec. 24	at Indianapolis (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept. 5	NEW ENGLAND	W	38-14
Sept. 12	at Dallas	W	13-10
Sept. 19	Open date		
Sept. 26	MIAMI	L	13-22
Oct. 3	N.Y. GIANTS	W	17-14
Oct. 11	HOUSTON	W	35-7
Oct. 17	Open date		
Oct. 24	at N.Y. Jets	W	19-10
Nov. 1	WASHINGTON	W	24-10
Nov. 7	at New England (OT)	W	13-10
Nov. 15	at Pittsburgh	L	0-23
Nov. 21	INDIANAPOLIS	W	23-9
Nov. 28	at Kansas City	L	7-23
Dec. 5	L.A. RAIDERS	L	24-25
Dec. 12	at Philadelphia	W	10-7
Dec. 19	at Miami	W	47-34
Dec. 26	N.Y. JETS	W	16-14
Jan. 2	at Indianapolis	W	30-10

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Rich Stadium (80,290, artificial) • Ticket information: 716-649-0015 • Flagship radio station: WBEN, 930 AM • Training site: Fredonia State University, Fredonia, N.Y.; 716-648-1800.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Bills led the NFL with 47 takeaways last season, yet ranked 27th in total defense? The 47 takeaways resulted in 140 points for Buffalo (17 touchdowns, 17 extra-point conversions and seven field goals).

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Don Beebe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bill Brooks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Steve Christie	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	6	1	36	—	—
Russell Copeland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kenneth Davis	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Carwell Gardner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Henry Jones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Jim Kelly	5	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Pete Metzelaars	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Andre Reed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Frank Reich	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Darryl Talley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Thurman Thomas	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
M. Washington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

side pass protection.

Kent Hull remains one of the league's top centers but continues to battle problems with his left knee. He missed the first two games of last season after undergoing arthroscopic surgery twice in three months. And he had a similar procedure on the knee last February.

John Davis is effective at right guard, although he, too, is battling knee trouble.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Bills have yet to get over the fact that their opponents rushed for nearly 33 more yards per game than in 1992. They also have not forgotten the sting of Dallas' eight-play, 64-yard touchdown drive—including 61 yards rushing by Emmitt Smith—that put the Cowboys in front for good in the Super Bowl.

The bottom line is that the Bills don't have much collective size or power in right end Bruce Smith, nose tackle Jeff Wright and left end Phil Hansen. Smith, by far the team's best defensive player, weighs only 268 pounds. Wright is, at best, a medium-sized nose man at 274. Hansen has bulked up to 285, but he has had problems maintaining at 270, so keeping the extra weight will be a challenge throughout the season.

Thus, the Bills are putting their greatest hope of adding muscle to their front three in second-year man John Parrella. Parrella played sparingly as a rookie end, but after making tremendous progress in off-season strength work, he has been moved to the No. 2 nose-tackle spot and should see a lot of action spelling Wright.

If the Bills do, indeed, switch to a 4-3, it will be primarily because Parrella performs well enough during a training-camp experiment to convince them to do so.

LINEBACKERS—At right outside linebacker, Darryl Talley is still the spiritual leader of the Bills' defense and, despite entering his 12th season, is capable of making big plays. On the left side, Cornelius Bennett has great pass-rushing skills and enough speed to apply tight pass coverage and chase down plays away from him.

But the Bills still have large question

RON VESELY

Cornelius Bennett is a great pass rusher.

JIM COOPER

Strong safety Henry Jones is one of the most experienced members of Buffalo's secondary.

marks inside, lingering from last year's free-agency loss of Conlan and Bailey. Inexperience led to numerous mistakes by Marvcus Patton, Mark Maddox and Keith Goganious, who replaced Maddox after he suffered a neck injury.

Patton and Maddox upgraded the Bills' quickness and pass-coverage ability inside. However, compared with Conlan and Bailey, they are small for the position and, like Buffalo's defensive linemen, often have problems holding their own against behemoth blockers and bigger running backs.

Depth is a big concern, especially after the Bills lost their only experienced outside backup, Richard Harvey, who bolted for Denver in free agency. They'll have to rely heavily on second-round draft pick Sam Rogers, and possibly third-rounder Marlo Perry, to back up Talley and Bennett. But each needs a lot of work in pass coverage.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Bills' starting secondary will have a dramatically different look on opening day this year than it did for its first game in '93. Gone are free agent Odomes (to Seattle), left cornerback J.D. Williams (traded to Arizona) and free safety Mark Kelso (released).

Thomas Smith, last year's first-round choice, replaces Odomes at the right corner. What he lacks in experience, Smith more than makes up for with his tremendous athletic ability (he has a team-best 41-inch vertical jump) and instincts for the ball. As a sixth defensive back last year, he made several timely break-ups of deep passes.

Matt Darby, who has two years of experience, takes over for Kelso. He is a superior athlete but still has plenty to learn about reading defenses and putting the rest of the defensive backs and linebackers in the right places. Despite heavy criticism for his lack of speed and being soft in run support, Kelso made an important cerebral contribution to Buffalo's defense.

Mickey Washington, who unseated Williams as a starter last season, and strong safety Henry Jones, each with three seasons' experience, are the most experienced members of the secondary. First-round draft pick Jeff Burris, a versatile star from Notre Dame, should provide at least decent depth at cornerback and safety.

1994 BUFFALO BILLS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
12	Kelly, Jim	6-3/226	2-14-60	9	Miami (Fla.)	D1/83	16/16
14	Reich, Frank	6-4/205	12-4-61	10	Maryland	D3/85	15/0
11	Strom, Rick	6-2/197	3-11-65	5	Georgia Tech	FA/94	0/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
23	Davis, Kenneth (KR)	5-10/208	4-16-62	9	Texas Christian	PlanB/89	16/0
35	Gardner, Carwell (FB)	6-2/244	11-27-66	5	Louisville	D2/90	13/2
44	Paterra, Greg (FB)	5-11/224	5-11-67	2	Slippery Rock	FA/94	0/0
34	Thomas, Thurman	5-10/198	5-16-66	7	Oklahoma State	D2/88	16/16
21	Turner, Nate (FB)	6-1/255	5-28-69	2	Nebraska	D6/92	13/0
	RECEIVERS						
82	Beebe, Don	5-11/180	12-18-64	6	Chadron (Neb.) State	D3/89	14/14
19	Branch, Darrick	5-11/195	2-10-70	1	Hawaii	FA/94	0/0
80	Brooks, Bill	6-0/189	4-6-64	9	Boston University	FA/93	16/13
81	Brooks, Bucky	6-0/190	1-22-71	R	North Carolina	D2/94	—
85	Copeland, Russell (PR)	6-0/200	11-4-71	2	Memphis State	D4/93	16/2
84	Johnson, Lonnie (TE)	6-3/230	2-14-71	R	Florida State	D2/94	—
18	Knox, Kevin	6-3/195	1-30-71	R	Florida State	D6/94	—
81	Lamb, Brad	5-10/177	10-7-67	4	Anderson (Ind.)	D8/91	1/0
88	Metzelaars, Pete (TE)	6-7/254	5-24-60	13	Wabash (Ind.)	T-SEA/85	16/16
86	Ofodile, A.J. (TE)	6-7/260	10-9-73	R	Missouri	D5/94	—
83	Reed, Andre	6-2/190	1-29-64	10	Kutztown (Pa.) State	D4/85	15/15
89	Tasker, Steve	5-9/181	4-10-62	10	Northwestern	W-Hou/86	15/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
66	Crafts, Jerry (T)	6-6/351	1-6-68	3	Louisville	FA/92	16/0
65	Davis, John (G)	6-4/310	8-22-65	8	Georgia Tech	PlanB/89	16/16
62	Devlin, Mike (C)	6-1/293	11-16-69	R	Iowa	D5a/93	—
70	Fina, John (T)	6-4/285	3-11-69	3	Arizona	D1/92	16/16
71	Hendrickson, Craig	6-3/290	5-5-68	1	Minnesota	FA/94	0/0
67	Hull, Kent (C)	6-5/284	1-13-61	9	Mississippi State	FA/86	14/13
68	Lacina, Corbin (T)	6-4/297	11-2-70	2	Augustana (S.D.)	D6/93	0/0
63	Lingner, Adam (C)	6-4/268	11-2-60	12	Illinois	PlanB/89	16/0
72	Louchiey, Corey (T)	6-7/305	10-10-71	R	South Carolina	D3/94	—
74	Parker, Glenn (G/T)	6-5/305	4-22-66	5	Arizona	D3/90	16/9
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
95	Abrams, Anthony (T)	6-3/298	2-16-71	R	Clark (Ga.)	D6/94	—
77	Barnett, Oliver (E)	6-3/292	4-9-66	5	Georgia State	FA/93	0/0
90	Hansen, Phil (E)	6-5/278	5-20-68	4	North Dakota State	D2/91	11/9
73	Lodish, Mike (NT)	6-3/280	8-11-67	5	UCLA	D10/90	15/1
92	Parrella, John (NT)	6-3/296	11-22-69	2	Nebraska	D2/93	10/0
99	Patton, James (E)	6-3/287	1-5-70	2	Texas	D2/92	2/0
78	Smith, Bruce (E)	6-4/273	6-18-63	10	Virginia Tech	D1/85	16/16
91	Wright, Jeff (NT)	6-3/274	6-13-63	7	Central Missouri State	D8/88	15/15
	LINEBACKERS						
97	Bennett, Cornelius	6-2/238	8-25-66	8	Alabama	T-IND/87	16/16
96	Brown, Monty	6-0/228	4-13-70	2	Ferris State (Mich.)	FA/93	13/0
50	Goganious, Keith	6-2/239	12-7-68	3	Penn State	D3/92	16/7
55	Maddox, Mark	6-1/233	3-23-68	4	Northern Michigan	D9/91	11/8
53	Patton, Marvcus	6-2/243	5-1-67	5	UCLA	D8/90	16/16
58	Perry, Marlo	6-4/250	12-7-70	R	Jackson State	D3/94	—
93	Rogers, Sam	6-3/245	5-30-70	R	Colorado	D2/94	—
56	Talley, Darryl	6-4/235	7-10-60	12	West Virginia	D2/83	16/16
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
22	Burris, Jeff (CB/KR)	6-0/204	6-7-72	R	Notre Dame	D1/94	—
27	Crocker, Sean	5-9/191	6-14-71	R	North Carolina	D4/94	—
43	Darby, Matt (S)	6-1/200	11-19-68	3	UCLA	D5/92	16/3
26	Gulledge, David (S)	6-1/203	10-26-67	2	Jacksonville State (Ala.)	FA/94	0/0
36	Henderson, Jerome (CB)	5-10/189	8-8-69	4	Clemson	FA/93	3/0
39	Johnson, Filmel	5-10/187	12-24-70	R	Illinois	D7/94	—
20	Jones, Henry (S)	5-11/197	12-29-67	4	Illinois	D1/91	16/16
24	Schulz, Kurt (S)	6-1/208	12-12-68	3	Eastern Washington	D7/92	12/0
28	Smith, Thomas (CB)	5-11/188	12-5-70	2	North Carolina	D1/93	16/1
25	Washington, Mickey (CB)	5-9/191	7-8-68	4	Texas A&M	FA/93	16/6
	SPECIALISTS						
2	Christie, Steve (K)	6-0/185	11-13-67	5	William & Mary	PlanB/92	16/0
9	Mohr, Chris (P)	6-5/215	5-11-66	5	Alabama	FA/91	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
John Bock, G; Phil Bryant, RB; Mike Collins, S; Greg Evans, S; Sonny Feexico, P; Anthony Fieldings, LB; Todd Herget, LB; Steve Hoyem, T; Yonel Jourdain, RB; Shawn Lawson, CB; Vince Marrow, TE; Orlando McKay, WR; Jerry Ostroski, G; Ed Philion, DT; Matt Rodgers, QB; Don Silvestri, K; Damon Thomas, WR; Tim Tindale, FB; Glenn Young, LB.

Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Bills still have one of the league's top kickers in Steve Christie. In 1993, he kicked four game-winning field goals; his 59-yarder against Miami was the longest of the season and fourth-longest in NFL history.

Chris Mohr's punting numbers last season were hardly staggering—with 36-yard net and 40.4-yard gross averages. But he has never had a punt blocked in three seasons and 188 attempts with the Bills, and that was enough to help convince the Bills in the off-season to make him one of the highest-paid players at his position at $625,000 per year.

Because of new rules designed to promote kickoff returns, the outstanding coverage work of five-time Pro Bowl player Steve Tasker is likely to be more important than ever. That's why the Bills rewarded him in the off-season with a pay raise to $750,000. ◆

Revamped Colts hope new players equal success

By TERRY HUTCHENS
Indianapolis News

In with the old, out with the new. That could very well be the theme for the 1994 Indianapolis Colts.

In a nutshell, if you don't have a program, don't even bother trying to figure out who the players are with the horseshoes on their helmets. If ever a team had a complete overhaul, this is the one.

Gone are Jeff George, Jack Trudeau, Reggie Langhorne, Jessie Hester, Duane Bickett and Clarence Verdin, just to name a few. Other 1993 starters who have left via waivers, free agency, or trades include Bill Schultz, Sam Clancy, Trevor Matich and John Baylor. Cornerback Chris Goode and running back Anthony Johnson, two unrestricted free agents, could return to the team.

As of mini-camp, just 31 of the 53 players that were on the team's roster in early January figured to be with the Colts at the start of training camp.

The Colts' key acquisition in the off-season was not a player, but a front-office hiring. The Colts named Bill Tobin as their first vice president/director of football operations.

Tobin, who was a key architect in building the Chicago Bears into a power in the 1980s, has quickly molded the Colts into a team of his image. His principles are fairly simplistic—you win with defense first and the running game second. And you place heavy emphasis on special-teams play.

"I believe in letting my product do the speaking for me rather than talk all the time about how I'm going to do things," Tobin said. "I'm from Missouri, the Show-Me State, and I'd rather show you how I'm going to do it rather than tell you how I'm going to do it."

It didn't take long for Tobin to let his actions begin speaking louder than his words.

He brought in pass-rush specialist Tony Bennett from Green Bay to bolster the defense. Bennett is a one-man wrecking crew who could make an immediate impact in the 4-3 defense. The Colts also added a big-time linebacker when they selected Nebraska's Trev Alberts in the draft.

JEFF FISHBEIN

Roosevelt Potts showed potential last year as a runner who can bowl over the opposition.

On offense, the running game will be put in the hands of rookie running back Marshall Faulk, who will team with veteran Roosevelt Potts for a potentially potent 1-2 punch.

COACHING

With the hiring of Vince Tobin (Bill's brother) as defensive coordinator, speculation is that Ted Marchibroda needs to win quickly—the sooner the better.

Marchibroda endured the fallout from Jeff George's decision to skip training camp and the late arrival of first-round pick Sean Dawkins in 1993. After an impressive 9-7 campaign in '92, the Colts slipped to 4-12 last season.

Word on the street is that if the Colts get off to one of their patented slow starts, Marchibroda could be in trouble by midseason. Vince Tobin would be a likely replacement, with new defensive-line coach Greg Blache possibly being groomed to be the next defensive coordinator.

If Marchibroda is successful, however, Bill Tobin would have no reservations in staying with the veteran coach.

For now, Vince Tobin will just run the Colts' defense. Tobin will use the same alignment he used with the Bears, in hopes of making the defense better. Blache, who spent the last six seasons as the Packers' defensive-line coach, gives the Colts another solid defensive coach. Blache, who coached Bennett in Green Bay, was one of the reasons Bennett decided to go to Indianapolis.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—There are several Colts scheduled to make more money than Jim Harbaugh, but none is any more of a key component in the Colts' success.

With George and Trudeau out of the picture, the Colts hope Harbaugh will have a rebirth of his career in Indianapolis. If Harbaugh stays within himself, hands the ball off a lot to Faulk and Potts and takes advantage of a couple of possession receivers, he can be successful in this offense.

If Harbaugh falters, the Colts will look to another former NFC Central signal-caller—Don Majkowski—to take the reins. Majkowski is expected to compete with Harbaugh in training camp for the starting job, but he may not possess enough of the total package to earn the starting nod. Majkowski's versatile running style continues to make him a fan favorite.

Paul Justin, a free agent and former Bears draft pick from Arizona State, should get every opportunity to win the third-string quarterback spot.

RUNNING BACKS—The Colts drafted Faulk with the No. 2 pick overall with only one objective in mind—to once and for all have a formidable rushing attack in Indianapolis.

In the 1990s, the Colts have finished last in the league in rushing three times and No. 27 overall the other season. The Colts hope those days are over and are looking for Faulk to make an immediate impact, possibly car-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: For the first time in a long while, the running game. With Marshall Faulk and Roosevelt Potts leading the way, the Colts should be able to gain some yards. On defense, the linebacking foursome of Tony Bennett, Quentin Coryatt, Jeff Herrod and rookie Trev Alberts is strong.

Weaknesses: The secondary, particularly the cornerback position, remains suspect. And despite signing former Bears signal-caller Jim Harbaugh, the Colts lack a big-play quarterback. There could be trouble if Faulk has a difficult time making the adjustment from college football to the National Football League.

Key to success: Both team defense and the running game must be clicking for the Colts to have a successful season. Place-kicker Dean Biasucci needs to perform at his level of play in 1993, when he connected on 26 of 31 field-goal attempt (.839), rather than fall back to the subpar season he had in 1992 (16-29, .552).

That's a fact: The Colts lost a lot of offensive firepower from '93. Gone are two wide receivers, Reggie Langhorne and Jessie Hester, and possibly a running back, Anthony Johnson, who is an unrestricted free agent. The trio totaled 204 receptions for 2,316 yards, which amounts to more than 60 percent of the team's totals in both categories.

Coach Ted Marchibroda says: "I think we've had three good drafts since I've been here and it's time we started seeing the fruits of our labors from those players. . . . Marshall Faulk will bring to this league his own unique style. He possesses speed and the ability to make the big play."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Dawkins	Carroll	
LT	Wolford	Mathews	Ray
LG	Dixon	Staysniak	C. Gray
C	Lowdermilk	Mahlum	Staysniak
RG	Mahlum	Staysniak	C. Gray
RT	Moss	Mathews	Vickers
TE	Cash	Arbuckle	Banta
WR	Turner	Baker	Stablein
QB	Harbaugh	Majkowski	Justin
RB	Faulk	Warren	Humphrey
FB	Potts	Culver	Toner

DEFENSE

LE	Hand	Peguese	
LT	Siragusa	Brown	McCoy
RT	Sims	Brown	Teichelman
RE	Bennett	Alberts	
LOLB	Alberts	Bennett	McDonald
MLB	Herrod	Grant	Butcher
ROLB	Coryatt	McDonald	Thomas
LCB	Ambrose	Goode	Buchanan
RCB	Daniel	Buchanan	
FS	Buchanan	D. Gray	
SS	Belser	Covington	O'Neal

SPECIALISTS

K	Biasucci	KR	Culver
P	Stark	PR	Ambrose

Warren

Warren

rying the ball 30 times per game.

When the Colts go to a two-back offense, second-year back Potts will get the call. Potts showed potential a year ago as a runner who can bowl over the opposition. He will need to become a better blocker to succeed in this offense.

Rodney Culver, Ed Toner and rookie Lamont Warren will battle for the remaining spots. Anthony Johnson, an unrestricted free agent whom the Colts still hope to re-sign, could make an impact as a role player, particularly as a receiver coming out of the backfield.

RECEIVERS—To get under the salary cap, the Colts pretty much did away with their receiving corps, choosing to build around second-year player Dawkins.

Dawkins has the total package—great leaping ability, soft hands and deceptive speed. The Colts think he'll be a good player, but he must show more confidence this season than he did in '93.

With Langhorne, Hester and Verdin gone, the Colts signed Floyd Turner and Wesley Carroll, hoping to get extra mileage out of someone else's retreads. The Colts believe Turner can bounce back from a leg injury and blossom into their starting inside receiver. With Carroll, the Colts see more of a possession receiver who can fill the void left by Hester's departure.

Rounding out the field are some other players who bring interesting talents to the table. One is Shannon Baker, who has the speed element the Colts have lacked for some time.

Others who will fight for playing time are Mike Cook and Brian Stablein, a pair of developmental-squad players from last season looking to make a splash; free agent Aaron Bailey, from Louisville; and running back Warren, who might figure into the long-range plans as a wide receiver.

Kerry Cash and Charles Arbuckle will compete for the starting job at tight end, with rookie Bradford Banta used primarily as the long-snapper.

OFFENSIVE LINE—Though strong at the tackle and center positions, the Colts are hoping they haven't been caught with their guards down.

The Colts are content with Will Wolford and Zefross Moss at the tackle spots, and Kirk Lowdermilk at center, but there are some question marks after that.

Guard Randy Dixon may need to renegotiate his contract, which is scheduled to pay him more than $1 million, to help Indianapolis with its salary cap. If not, the Colts may go into the season with a pair of inexperienced guards.

Eric Mahlum, a rookie from California, will likely start at right guard. The drafting of Mahlum led to the immediate release of starter Bill Schultz. Dixon or Joe Staysniak will start on the left side. Third-round pick Jason Mathews will back up both tackle positions.

1994 INDIANAPOLIS COLTS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
12	Harbaugh, Jim	6-3/215	12-23-64	8	Michigan	FA/94	*15/15
7	Majkowski, Don	6-3/208	2-25-64	8	Virginia	FA/93	3/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
35	Culver, Rodney (FB)	5-9/224	12-23-69	3	Notre Dame	D4/92	16/1
28	Faulk, Marshall	5-10/200	2-26-73	R	San Diego State	D1/94	—
23	Johnson, Anthony	6-0/222	10-25-67	5	Notre Dame	D2/90	13/8
42	Potts, Roosevelt (FB)	6-0/245	1-8-71	2	Northeast Louisiana	D2/93	16/15
44	Toner, Ed (FB)	6-0/240	3-22-68	3	Boston College	FA/92	16/1
21	Warren, Lamont	5-11/194	1-4-71	R	Colorado	D6/94	—
	RECEIVERS						
81	Arbuckle, Charles (TE)	6-3/248	9-13-68	4	UCLA	FA/92	16/2
86	Baker, Shannon	5-9/185	7-20-70	2	Florida State	D8/93	0/0
49	Banta, Bradford (TE)	6-6/255	12-14-70	R	Southern Cal	D4/94	—
9	Carroll, Wesley	6-0/195	9-6-67	4	Miami (Fla.)	FA/94	*12/0
88	Cash, Kerry (TE)	6-4/252	8-7-69	4	Texas	D5/91	16/14
87	Dawkins, Sean	6-4/213	2-3-71	2	California	D1/93	16/7
48	Etheredge, Carlos (TE)	6-5/259	8-10-70	1	Miami	D6/93	0/0
1	Stablein, Brian	6-1/191	4-14-70	1	Ohio State	FA/94	0/0
85	Turner, Floyd	5-11/198	5-29-66	6	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/94	*10/2
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
69	Dixon, Randy (G)	6-3/305	3-12-65	8	Pittsburgh	D4/87	15/15
75	Gray, Cecil (G)	6-4/305	2-16-68	5	North Carolina	FA/93	6/2
63	Lowdermilk, Kirk (C)	6-4/280	4-10-63	10	Ohio State	FA/93	16/16
65	Mahlum, Eric (G/C)	6-4/285	12-6-70	R	California	D2/94	—
74	Mathews, Jason (T)	6-5/284	2-9-71	R	Texas A&M	D3/94	—
73	Moss, Zefross (T)	6-6/338	8-17-66	6	Alabama State	T-Dal/89	16/16
68	Ray, John (T)	6-8/350	4-26-69	2	West Virginia	FA/93	2/0
79	Staysniak, Joe (G/C)	6-5/302	12-8-66	4	Ohio State	FA/92	14/1
72	Vander Poel, Mark (T)	6-7/303	3-5-68	4	Colorado	D4/91	0/0
67	Wolford, Will (T)	6-5/300	5-18-64	9	Vanderbilt	FA/93	12/12
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
56	Bennett, Tony (E)	6-2/243	7-1-67	5	Mississippi	FA/94	*10/7
90	Emtman, Steve (E)	6-4/300	4-16-70	3	Washington	D1/92	5/5
78	Hand, Jon (E)	6-7/310	11-13-63	9	Alabama	D1/86	15/14
61	McCoy, Tony (T)	6-0/279	6-10-69	3	Florida	D4/92	6/0
96	Peguese, Willis (E)	6-4/273	12-18-66	5	Miami (Fla.)	W-Hou/92	13/4
92	Sims, Thomas (T)	6-2/308	4-18-67	5	Pittsburgh	FA/93	5/3
98	Siragusa, Tony (T)	6-3/325	5-14-67	5	Pittsburgh	FA/90	14/14
93	Teichelman, Lance (T)	6-4/276	10-21-70	R	Texas A&M	D7/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
51	Alberts, Trev (DE)	6-4/243	8-8-70	R	Nebraska	D1/94	—
53	Butcher, Paul	6-0/240	11-8-63	8	Wayne State (Mich.)	FA/93	16/0
55	Coryatt, Quentin	6-3/250	8-1-70	3	Texas A&M	D1/92	16/16
59	Grant, Stephen	6-0/242	12-23-69	3	West Virginia	D10/92	16/0
54	Herrod, Jeff	6-0/249	7-29-66	7	Mississippi	D9/88	14/14
57	McDonald, Devon	6-4/248	11-8-69	2	Notre Dame	D4/93	16/0
94	Thomas, Marquise	6-4/255	5-25-71	1	Mississippi	D8/93	0/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
33	Ambrose, Ashley (CB)	5-10/185	9-17-70	3	Mississippi Valley State	D2/92	14/6
29	Belser, Jason (S)	5-9/187	5-28-70	3	Oklahoma	D8/92	16/16
34	Buchanan, Ray (S/CB)	5-9/193	9-29-71	2	Louisville	D3/93	16/5
39	Covington, John (S)	6-0/198	4-22-72	R	Notre Dame	D5/94	—
38	Daniel, Eugene (CB)	5-11/188	5-4-61	11	Louisiana State	D8/84	16/16
37	Goode, Chris (CB)	6-0/199	9-17-63	8	Alabama	D10/87	14/10
30	Gray, Derwin (S)	5-10/198	4-9-71	2	Brigham Young	D4/93	11/0
32	O'Neal, Robert (S)	6-1/199	2-1-71	1	Clemson	FA/93	0/0
	SPECIALISTS						
4	Biasucci, Dean (K)	6-0/190	7-25-62	10	Western Carolina	FA/86	16/0
3	Stark, Rohn (P)	6-3/203	5-4-59	13	Florida State	D2/82	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Russell Allen, DE; Aaron Bailey, WR; Marc Borrelli, OL; Robert Brown, DL; Darnell Campbell, RB; Mike Cook, WR; Marvin Courtney, RB; Todd Ericson, DB; William Houston, RB; Ronald Humphrey, RB; Todd Jordan, QB/P; Paul Justin, QB; Kenny McEntyre, DB; Jason Orton, DB; Deron Pointer, WR; Brian Ratigan, LB; Jose Simon, DL; Terry Smith, WR; Glenn Starks, RB; Kipp Vickers, T; Cassius Ware, LB; Bernard Whittington, DE.
*Not with Colts in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Just how quickly Steve Emtman returns—if he does at all in '94—will be the ongoing question for the Colts upfront.

Emtman, recovering from his second knee surgery in as many seasons, is projecting the eighth game as his possible return date. So the Colts are approaching the season as if he won't be back this year.

Without Emtman, the Colts' base defense will likely start Jon Hand and Bennett at the end positions, with Tony Siragusa and Thomas Sims inside. Bennett, who has played both defensive end and outside linebacker in his career, will be used in both positions in Vince Tobin's defensive scheme.

Former Packers defensive end Robert Brown, rookie Lance Teichelman and Tony McCoy will be called upon to bolster the defensive front. Brown, who started 112 games during his 11 seasons in Green Bay, did not play in 1993.

LINEBACKERS—Once again, the linebacking group is the team's biggest strength.

The addition of Bennett gives the Colts some versatility at linebacker, with Quentin Coryatt, Jeff Herrod and Alberts expected to start in the base. Alberts will change spots with Bennett in certain situations, but overall the Colts should have a formidable front seven.

A big key for the Colts will be whether or not Coryatt can become more active playing at an outside-linebacker spot. Last year, Coryatt played more inside, with Herrod bouncing out. The result was two players who played tentatively and confused throughout last season.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The time has come for Ashley Ambrose to live up to his clippings as the 29th player taken overall in the 1992 draft.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Ted Marchibroda.
Assistant coaches: • Tom Batta (special teams) • Greg Blache (defensive line) • Ron Blackledge (offensive line) • Fred Bruney (defensive assistant) • Gene Huey (running backs) • Jim Johnson (linebackers) • Hank Kuhlmann (tight ends) • Nick Nicolau (offensive coordinator) • Jimmy Robinson (receivers) • Pat Thomas (secondary) • Vince Tobin (defensive coordinator) • Tom Zupancic (strength and conditioning).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 4-12 (5th in AFC East); 2-6 in division; 4-8 in conference; 2-6 at home; 2-6 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Marchibroda's regular-season record: 13-19 in two seasons with Indianapolis Colts; 54-52 overall in seven NFL seasons with Indianapolis and Baltimore Colts.
Marchibroda's postseason record: 0-3 in three playoffs with Baltimore Colts.
Team record last five years: 29-51 (.363, ranks 24th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	12	22
Rushing offense	14	28
Passing offense	5	8
Scoring offense	13	27
Total defense	14	28
Rushing defense	14	28
Passing defense	4	12
Scoring defense	14	27
Takeaways	14	27
Giveaways	T11	T23
Turnover differential	T13	T25
Sacks	14	28
Sacks allowed	3	T3

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Marshall Faulk	RB	San Diego State
1st	Trev Alberts	LB	Nebraska
2nd	Eric Mahlum	G/C	California
3rd	Jason Mathews	T	Texas A&M
4th	Bradford Banta	TE	Southern Cal
5th	John Covington	SS	Notre Dame
6th	Lamont Warren	RB	Colorado
7th	Lance Teichelman	DT	Texas A&M

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	HOUSTON	12:00
Sept.	11	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Sept.	18	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Sept.	25	CLEVELAND	12:00
Oct.	2	SEATTLE	12:00
Oct.	9	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Oct.	16	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct.	23	WASHINGTON	12:00
Oct.	30	N.Y. JETS	4:00
Nov.	6	at Miami	1:00
Nov.	13	Open date	
Nov.	20	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov.	27	NEW ENGLAND	8:00
Dec.	4	at Seattle	1:00
Dec.	11	at New England	1:00
Dec.	18	MIAMI	1:00
Dec.	24	BUFFALO (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	MIAMI	L	20-24
Sept.	12	at Cincinnati	W	9-6
Sept.	19	Open date		
Sept.	26	CLEVELAND	W	23-10
Oct.	3	at Denver	L	13-35
Oct.	10	DALLAS	L	3-27
Oct.	17	Open date		
Oct.	24	at Miami	L	27-41
Oct.	31	NEW ENGLAND	W	9-6
Nov.	7	at Washington	L	24-30
Nov.	14	N.Y. JETS	L	17-31
Nov.	21	at Buffalo	L	9-23
Nov.	29	SAN DIEGO	L	0-31
Dec.	5	at N.Y. Jets	W	9-6
Dec.	12	at N.Y. Giants	L	6-20
Dec.	19	PHILADELPHIA	L	10-20
Dec.	26	at New England	L	0-38
Jan.	2	BUFFALO	L	10-30

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Hoosier Dome (60,127, artificial) • Ticket information: 317-297-7000 • Flagship radio stations: WFBQ, 94.7 FM/WNDE, 1260 AM • Training site: Anderson University, Anderson, Ind.; 317-297-2658.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that in the 1990s, out of 64 possible games, the Colts have had only one victory of 14 points or more?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Dean Biasucci	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	3	1	15	—	—
Kerry Cash	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Rodney Culver	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Sean Dawkins	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jim Harbaugh	1	5	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Jeff Herrod	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Anthony Johnson	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Roosevelt Potts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Floyd Turner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

The Colts drafted Marshall Faulk with the objective of establishing a strong ground attack.

Ambrose is the missing piece in the Colts' secondary. Eugene Daniel will start at one corner, with Ambrose on the other side. If that doesn't work out, look for the Colts to experiment with free safety Ray Buchanan at a corner slot.

Jason Belser, one of the surprises of the '92 draft, will start at either free or strong safety. Rookie John Covington, from Notre Dame, could battle for the other safety position or be counted on as a nickel back.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Rohn Stark continues to be one of the best punters in the game, and the Colts will rely heavily on his consistency again in '94.

Place-kicker Dean Biasucci bounced back from a pair of subpar seasons to make a career-best 26 field goals last year. However, 15 of the field goals were from inside 29 yards and Biasucci still needs to prove he can be a consistent threat from 40 yards and out.

With Verdin gone, the Colts are looking for a capable return man. Ambrose, Baker and Culver are all expected to get chances at the position. ◆

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Rohn Stark continues to be one of the best punters in the National Football League.

Dolphins can shine if they stay healthy, forget '93

By ARMANDO SALGUERO
Miami Herald

Somewhere in the murky depths of a disappointing finish last season, the Miami Dolphins lost their identity. If they rediscover it this fall, they could emerge as the best team in the AFC.

Before the year began, the Dolphins had fancied themselves a Super Bowl contender, and they indeed seemed to be the odds-on favorite to go to Super Bowl XXVIII after a win at Dallas on Thanksgiving Day improved their record to 9-2, best in the National Football League.

But injuries started to pile up and five straight losses ensued, making January a time of somber, bitter reflection. With the 1994 season on the horizon, the Dolphins are unsure of exactly who they are.

"Our job is to forget 1993 and work toward being a Super Bowl team this season," Coach Don Shula said. "We still have the nucleus of the players that helped us get to 9-2. We have to make sure we can take the next step to continue being consistent late in the season like we were early in the season."

Miami used six of its seven 1994 draft picks on defensive players and signed two free-agent safeties. Offensively, the only questions are the stability of the line and the health of Dan Marino, who missed most of last year with a ruptured right Achilles tendon.

Good health overall could be the key. If the Dolphins avoid injuries and put the memories of 1993 behind them, the 1994 season could have a much happier ending.

COACHING

This staff is quickly gaining a reputation for getting players to contribute exactly what they are capable of contributing—no more, no less.

When the Dolphins had their full complement of players last season, the coaches guided them to the league's best record. The coaches blamed the team's late-season collapse on a lack of talented backups, but who acquired those players? The coaches did. Given good players, the staff coaxed them into producing the NFL's best record; given lesser players, the staff was unable to raise anyone's level of play.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The Dolphins have three former No. 1 picks on the roster in Marino, Bernie Kosar and Kelly Stouffer. Marino battled a weight problem after the surgery to repair his ruptured Achilles tendon, but he promises to return to form. The Dolphins played well offensively without Marino in 1993 but don't want to have to do it again. He showed in mini-camp that his arm is as strong as ever, and Marino's release still is among the quickest in the league.

Kosar, a former starter in Cleveland, has settled nicely into the backup job. However, neither he nor Stouffer figures to be Marino's long-term replacement, and the Dolphins have given up on grooming a future quarterback for the time being.

RUNNING BACKS—Terry Kirby led the Dolphins in receptions as a rookie last year (75) and has unseated Mark Higgs as the starting halfback. Keith Byars, meanwhile, is coming off a Pro Bowl season and was named the team's most valuable player, breaking Marino's 10-year hold on the honor.

Kirby and Byars form a formidable tandem, but the backfield is thin behind them. Higgs, despite leading Miami in rushing the last two seasons, has yet to convince the coaching staff that he is consistent or durable enough to be a full-time starter.

The Dolphins' primary concern is a third-down back. Kirby filled that role admirably last year, but the coaches don't believe he can both start and handle the third-down duties. Since Higgs is not a great pass catcher, it's likely the third-down duties will fall to Byars, a good receiver who doesn't get the ball often on first and second downs in Miami's halfback-oriented offense.

JOEL STAHL

Despite catching a career-low 39 passes, tight end Keith Jackson was named to his fifth Pro Bowl.

RECEIVERS—Shula said he would trade second- and third-round draft picks for a Pro Bowl player any day, and Irving Fryar, the former New England Patriot, rewarded the Dolphins with a Pro Bowl berth last year.

Opposite Fryar, a battle may be brewing between veteran Mark Ingram and youngster O.J. McDuffie. Ingram struggled when Marino was playing early last season but blossomed late with new quarterbacks Scott Mitchell and Steve DeBerg. McDuffie, meanwhile, improved steadily as a rookie and had worked himself into the No. 3 receiver spot by the end of the year.

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Dan Marino is perhaps the league's best quarterback, and he works with a solid corps of receivers. The special teams are excellent. Linebacker Bryan Cox's fire, determination and ability set a fine example for his teammates. The team's overall work ethic is good.

Weaknesses: Depth is a big concern. The Dolphins historically do well when injuries are rare, but a handful of injuries in 1994 could turn a potential playoff contender into a non-contender. There is uncertainty at right guard and left outside linebacker.

Key to success: Good health. When they were injury-free last year, the Dolphins compiled the best record in the NFL. After some key players got hurt, they collapsed. If Chris Singleton plays up to his potential at left outside linebacker, rookie Tim Bowens becomes functional at defensive tackle and the offensive line's run-blocking improves, this will be a team to reckon with.

That's a fact: Miami's five-game losing streak at the end of last season equaled the longest ever in Don Shula's 31-year coaching career. In 1988, his 6-10 Dolphins also lost five straight.

Coach Don Shula says: "Not winning a game in December last season was something nobody here was happy about. We know what our problems were, and we think we've come a way in solving those problems. We've brought in a lot of new people and are anxious to see how they fit in. We think we've done a good job making ourselves better, but now we have to wait until the games begin to see if we've really come as far as we think."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Fryar	M. Williams	
LT	Webb	Novak	
LG	Sims	Gray	
C	Dellenbach	Ruddy	
RG	Weidner	Blake	
RT	Heller	Novak	
TE	K. Jackson	R. Williams	Coons
WR	Ingram	McDuffie	R. Brown
QB	Marino	Kosar	Stouffer
RB	Kirby	Higgs	Parmalee
FB	Byars	Saxon	

DEFENSE

LE	Cross	Veasey	
NT	Klingbeil	Veasey	
DT	Webster	Bowens	Gaines
RE	Coleman	Webster	
LLB	Singleton	Beavers	
MLB	Hollier	Offerdahl	Bullough
RLB	Cox	Woolfork	
LCB	Vincent	Smith	
RCB	J.B. Brown	Oliver	Malone
SS	Stewart	Middleton	
FS	Atkins	Green	

SPECIALISTS

K	Stoyanovich	KR	McDuffie
P	Arnold	PR	McDuffie
			M. Williams
			Fryar

MIAMI DOLPHINS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Don Shula.

Assistant coaches:
• Joel Collier (staff assistant) • John Gamble (strength) • Joe Greene (defensive line) • George Hill (linebackers) • Tony Nathan (offensive backs) • Tom Olivadotti (defense) • Mel Phillips (defensive backs) • John Sandusky (assistant head coach/offensive line) • Larry Seiple (receivers) • Gary Stevens (offense/quarterbacks) • Junior Wade (conditioning) • Mike Westhoff (special teams).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 9-7 (2nd in AFC East); 5-3 in division; 6-6 in conference; 4-4 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Shula's regular-season record: 238-130-2 in 24 seasons with Dolphins; 309-143-6 overall in 31 NFL seasons with Dolphins and Baltimore Colts.
Shula's postseason record: 16-12 in 14 playoffs with Dolphins (2-3 in Super Bowls); 18-15 overall in 17 playoffs with Dolphins and Baltimore Colts.
Team record last five years: 48-32 (.600, ranks T7th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	1	2
Rushing offense	12	25
Passing offense	1	1
Scoring offense	3	5
Total defense	11	20
Rushing defense	9	14
Passing defense	9	21
Scoring defense	13	24
Takeaways	9	19
Giveaways	T9	T18
Turnover differential	11	22
Sacks	12	T24
Sacks allowed	4	T5

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Tim Bowens	DT	Mississippi
2nd	Aubrey Beavers	LB	Oklahoma
2nd	Tim Ruddy	C	Notre Dame
4th	Ron Woolfork	LB	Colorado
5th	William Gaines	DT	Florida
6th	Brant Boyer	LB	Arizona
7th	Sean Hill	DB	Montana State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	NEW ENGLAND	4:00
Sept.	11	Green Bay at Milw.	12:00
Sept.	18	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Sept.	25	at Minnesota	12:00
Oct.	2	at Cincinnati	8:00
Oct.	9	at Buffalo	1:00
Oct.	16	L.A. RAIDERS	1:00
Oct.	23	Open date	
Oct.	30	at New England	1:00
Nov.	6	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Nov.	13	CHICAGO	1:00
Nov.	20	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Nov.	27	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dec.	4	BUFFALO	8:00
Dec.	12	KANSAS CITY (Mon.)	9:00
Dec.	18	at Indianapolis	1:00
Dec.	25	DETROIT	8:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at Indianapolis	W	24-20
Sept.	12	N.Y. JETS	L	14-24
Sept.	19	Open date		
Sept.	26	at Buffalo	W	22-13
Oct.	4	WASHINGTON	W	17-10
Oct.	10	at Cleveland	W	24-14
Oct.	17	Open date		
Oct.	24	INDIANAPOLIS	W	41-27
Oct.	31	KANSAS CITY	W	30-10
Nov.	7	at N.Y. Jets	L	10-27
Nov.	14	at Philadelphia	W	19-14
Nov.	21	NEW ENGLAND	W	17-13
Nov.	25	at Dallas	W	16-14
Dec.	5	N.Y. GIANTS	L	14-19
Dec.	13	PITTSBURGH	L	20-21
Dec.	19	BUFFALO	L	34-47
Dec.	27	at San Diego	L	20-45
Jan.	2	at New England (OT)	L	27-33

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Joe Robbie Stadium (74,916, grass) • Ticket information: 305-620-2578 • Flagship radio station: WIOD, 610 AM • Training site: Nova University, Miami, Fla.; 305-452-7000.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Miami hasn't sent a defensive back to the Pro Bowl since safety Tim Foley in 1979?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Greg Baty	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Keith Byars	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Steve DeBerg	3	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Irving Fryar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Mark Higgs	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Mark Ingram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Keith Jackson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Terry Kirby	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Bernie Kosar	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Dan Marino	1	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
O.J. McDuffie	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pete Stoyanovich	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	4	2	37	—	—

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

The Dolphins were not pleased with probable No. 4 receiver Mike Williams in spring camp, but one saving grace is that tight end Keith Jackson is versatile enough to be used in Miami's four-wide-receiver set. Jackson was named to his fifth Pro Bowl despite catching only 39 passes, the fewest of his career.

LINEMEN—The offensive line is loaded with unanswered questions, even with two Pro Bowl starters on the left side in tackle Richmond Webb and guard Keith Sims. Can right tackle Ron Heller withstand another full season on a tender knee? Can Jeff Dellenbach play up to the team's expectations at center while rookie Tim Ruddy learns the position and serves as the backup? And who will play right guard?

The latter question is crucial. Bert Weidner started 11 games at right guard last season and was slated to start there again in 1994, but a summer-long contract holdout miffed some people in the Miami organization. The Dolphins have always hoped that Eddie Blake could start at right guard, but the third-year veteran still hasn't proven he knows the playbook. Unless Blake has an excellent camp and instills some confidence in the coaches, he could be gone by the start of the season. Another possibility is that Dellenbach could be shifted to right guard if Ruddy shows he's ready to start at center. The most likely scenario, however, is for Dellenbach to start at center and for Weidner to resolve his contract problems.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—With the possible exception of nose tackle Chuck Klingbeil, every defensive lineman was something of a disappointment in 1993. Klingbeil was asked to clog the middle on early downs to stop the opponents' running game and, except for a couple of notable games against the Jets, he did.

Right end Marco Coleman failed to improve upon a stellar 1992 rookie season, possibly because he broke his hand five games into the year. He never recovered fully and finished with 30 fewer tackles than the year before. Left end Jeff Cross collected a team-leading 10½ sacks but faded terribly in the final four games, when he had none.

Miami's biggest problems, however, were at tackle, where Mike Golic, Larry Webster and Craig Veasey failed to muster much of a pass rush up the middle. The Dolphins used their No. 1 draft choice to take Mississippi defensive tackle Tim Bowens, but he played only 8½ games in college and reported overweight to summer camp. With Golic waived, Bowens will be asked to enter a rotation system at tackle. In the best-case scenario, the Dolphins believe Bowens could be starting by midseason; in the worst, Bowens will be shuttled in to relieve Webster, who is expected to begin the year as the starter.

As long as Webster and Coleman remain healthy, this group will be adequate. Only Bowens has the potential to dominate.

LINEBACKERS—Bryan Cox is the only exclamation point at a position filled with question marks. He has led the Dolphins in tackles the last two seasons, plays every down and can be used as a pass rusher, run stopper and pass defender.

John Offerdahl could start at middle linebacker, but the Dolphins aren't certain if he'll even be playing in 1994. Offerdahl has been

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Nose tackle Chuck Klingbeil was the only bright spot in Miami's defensive line in 1993.

pondering retirement since the end of last season, and various injuries have limited his contributions to the team the last three seasons anyway. Without Offerdahl, the Dolphins will go with Dwight Hollier in the middle. Hollier was not helped last season when the coaching staff kept shuffling him between the middle and left-outside positions. The coaches believe Hollier can be most effective if he stays in one spot, and his best spot is the middle.

There are huge concerns at left outside linebacker. If Hollier plays the middle, the likely starter on the outside is Chris Singleton, a former No. 1 pick of the Patriots who was waived last season and signed by Miami. The Dolphins believe Singleton has the tools to be an NFL starter, but he has yet to prove it in four seasons. Miami drafted Aubrey Beavers and Ronnie Woolfork to increase their choice of players at linebacker, but the rookies may be too busy figuring out what to do on their assignments to have any noticeable effect this year. Both players, however, seem to possess the necessary physical tools for future success in the NFL.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Miami will replace a couple of departed free agents, Louis Oliver and Jarvis Williams, with a pair of newly acquired ones: Michael Stewart and Gene Atkins. Oliver probably is the best player of the four, but when teamed with the slow Williams, he had to cover up for a lot of mistakes. The duo of Stewart and Atkins is somewhat faster overall and has the potential to help stop the run better.

The cornerback tandem of Troy Vincent and J.B. Brown was among the best in the NFL last season until Vincent suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 13 against Pittsburgh. His reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation went well, and he is expected to be ready by the start of the season. The Dolphins think Vincent, if healthy, has a legitimate chance to become the league's best cornerback. Brown, a self-made player who was drafted in the 12th round in 1989, is the second-fastest player on the team behind Vincent.

1994 MIAMI DOLPHINS ROSTER

No.	QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
17	DeBerg, Steve	6-3/220	1-19-54	18	San Jose State	FA/93	0/0
19	Kosar, Bernie	6-5/215	11-25-63	10	Miami, Fla.	FA/94	*11/7
13	Marino, Dan	6-4/224	9-15-61	12	Pittsburgh	D1/83	5/5
15	Millen, Hugh	6-5/216	11-22-63	10	Washington	FA/93	0/0
14	Pederson, Doug	6-3/209	1-31-68	2	Northeast Louisiana	FA/93	7/0
11	Stouffer, Kelly	6-3/214	7-6-64	6	Colorado State	FA/94	0/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
41	Byars, Keith (FB)	6-1/238	10-14-63	9	Ohio State	FA/93	16/16
34	Craver, Aaron	6-0/220	12-18-68	4	Fresno State	D3/91	0/0
21	Higgs, Mark	5-7/196	4-11-66	7	Kentucky	PlanB/90	16/8
43	Kirby, Terry	6-1/219	1-20-70	2	Virginia	D3/93	16/8
30	Parmalee, Bernie	5-11/204	9-16-67	3	Ball State	FA/92	16/0
22	Saxon, James (FB)	5-11/237	3-23-66	7	San Jose State	PlanB/92	16/0
	RECEIVERS						
84	Baty, Greg (TE)	6-6/240	8-28-64	8	Stanford	FA/90	16/1
80	Fryar, Irving (PR)	6-0/200	9-28-62	11	Nebraska	T-NE/93	16/16
82	Ingram, Mark	5-11/190	8-23-65	8	Michigan State	FA/93	16/16
88	Jackson, Keith (TE)	6-2/254	4-19-65	7	Oklahoma	FA/92	15/15
81	McDuffie, O.J. (KR/PR)	5-10/185	12-2-69	2	Penn State	D1/93	16/0
87	Williams, Mike (KR)	5-11/187	10-9-66	4	Northeastern	FA/91	13/0
85	Williams, Ronnie (TE)	6-3/259	1-19-66	2	Oklahoma State	FA/93	11/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
65	Dellenbach, Jeff (G/C)	6-5/290	2-14-63	10	Wisconsin	D4/85	16/16
74	Dennis, Mark (T)	6-6/296	4-15-65	8	Illinois	D8/87	16/0
62	Gray, Chris (G/T)	6-4/286	6-19-70	2	Auburn	D5/93	5/0
73	Heller, Ron (T)	6-6/293	8-25-62	11	Penn State	FA/93	16/16
61	Ruddy, Tim (C)	6-3/282	4-27-72	R	Notre Dame	D2/94	—
69	Sims, Keith (G)	6-3/303	6-17-67	5	Iowa State	D2/90	16/16
78	Webb, Richmond (T)	6-6/302	1-11-67	5	Texas A&M	D1/90	16/16
60	Weidner, Bert (G/C)	6-2/290	1-20-66	5	Kent	D11/89	16/11
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
95	Bowens, Tim (T)	6-5/317	2-7-73	R	Mississippi	D1/94	—
90	Coleman, Marco (E)	6-3/262	12-18-69	3	Georgia Tech	D1/92	15/15
91	Cross, Jeff (E)	6-4/271	3-25-66	7	Missouri	D9/88	16/16
93	Gaines, William (T)	6-4/300	6-27-71	R	Florida	D5/94	—
99	Klingbeil, Chuck (NT)	6-1/289	11-2-65	4	Northern Michigan	FA/91	16/16
94	Veasey, Craig (E/NT)	6-2/300	12-25-65	5	Houston	FA/93	15/0
79	Webster, Larry (E)	6-5/288	1-18-69	3	Maryland	D3/92	13/9
	LINEBACKERS						
53	Beavers, Aubrey	6-3/233	8-31-71	R	Oklahoma	D2/94	—
52	Boyer, Brant	6-0/232	6-27-71	R	Arizona	D6/94	—
54	Bullough, Chuck	6-1/238	3-3-69	1	Michigan State	FA/93	3/0
51	Cox, Bryan	6-4/241	2-17-68	4	Western Illinois	D5/91	16/16
59	Grimsley, John	6-2/236	2-25-62	11	Kentucky	T-Hou/91	13/9
50	Hollier, Dwight	6-2/250	4-21-69	3	North Carolina	D4/92	16/10
93	Odom, Cliff	6-2/236	8-15-58	15	Texas-Arlington	FA/92	14/1
56	Offerdahl, John	6-3/238	8-17-64	9	Western Michigan	D2/86	9/8
55	Singleton, Chris	6-2/242	2-20-67	5	Arizona	FA/93	17/4
58	Woolfork, Ronnie	6-3/254	12-21-70	R	Colorado	D4/94	—
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
32	Alexander, Bruce (CB)	5-8/178	9-17-65	6	Stephen F. Austin State	PlanB/92	14/0
28	Atkins, Gene (S)	5-11/200	11-22-64	8	Florida A&M	FA/94	*16/16
	Braxton, Tyrone (CB)	5-11/185	12-17-64	8	North Dakota State	FA/94	*16/16
37	Brown, J.B. (CB)	6-0/190	1-5-67	6	Maryland	D12/89	16/16
42	Green, Chris (S)	5-11/192	2-26-68	2	Illinois	D7/91	14/0
45	Harden, Bobby (S)	6-0/205	2-8-67	5	Miami, Fla.	D12/90	8/0
31	Hill, Sean (CB)	5-10/178	8-14-71	R	Montana State	D7/94	—
24	Jackson, Vestee (CB)	6-0/186	8-14-63	9	Washington	T-Chi/91	16/5
47	Malone, Darrell (CB)	5-10/182	11-23-67	3	Jacksonville (Ala.) State	FA/92	16/1
27	Middleton, Mike (S)	5-10/211	12-4-69	1	Indiana	FA/94	0/0
20	Oliver, Muhammad (CB)	5-11/170	3-12-69	3	Oregon	FA/93	*4/0
29	Smith, Frankie (CB)	5-9/186	10-8-68	2	Baylor	FA/93	5/1
35	Stewart, Michael (S)	6-0/195	7-12-65	8	Fresno State	FA/94	*16/14
23	Vincent, Troy (CB)	6-0/192	6-8-70	3	Wisconsin	D1/92	13/13
26	Williams, Jarvis (S)	5-11/200	5-16-65	7	Florida	D2/88	16/14
	SPECIALISTS						
6	Arnold, Jim (P)	6-3/211	1-31-61	12	Vanderbilt	FA/94	*16/0
10	Stoyanovich, Pete (K)	5-11/195	4-28-67	6	Indiana	D8/89	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Ethan Albright, T; Leo Araguz, P; Jim Ballard, QB; Eddie Blake, G; Kevin Brothen, C; Reggie Brown, WR; Mark Caesar, DT; Ricardo Carwright, CB; Rob Coons, TE; Dwayne Davis, S; Robert Davis, CB; Johnny Dixon, S; Dion Foxx, LB; Paul Francisco, TE; Demeris Johnson, WR; Morris Letcher, WR; Stephen McGuire, FB; Jeff Novak, G/T; Shelton Quarles, LB; George Rooks, DT; Tony Rowell, G; Bryan Rowley, WR; Scott Schulte, RB; Dexter Seigler, CB; Irving Spikes, RB; Melvin Spralding, LB; Mark Sturdivant, DE.
*Not with Dolphins in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SPECIAL TEAMS

It had been four seasons since a Miami player returned a punt for a touchdown before McDuffie accomplished the feat twice last season. He was a threat on both punts and kickoffs and will continue in both roles.

The Dolphins are confident they have solved their punting problems by signing Jim Arnold, whose 44.5-yard average with Detroit tied for third best in the league last year. Pete Stoyanovich, one of the league's better long-range and pressure place-kickers, turned down a lucrative contract offer from New England to stay with Miami. He has kicked 13 field goals of 50 or more yards as well as 10 in the final minutes to win a game for Miami or send it into overtime. ◆

Pats are making their move—in right direction

By KEVIN MANNIX
Boston Herald

The Patriots are going nowhere, but these days it is only in the geographical sense. For the first time in nearly a decade, the franchise enters a season with a legitimate feeling of hope.

In Bill Parcells, the Pats have a legitimate superstar coach. In Drew Bledsoe, they have a potential superstar quarterback. In Robert Kraft, they have an owner with local ties whose purchase of the team in the off-season ended years of speculation and concern that the Pats' days in New England were numbered.

Any of those would be reason for celebration for long-suffering Patriot fans; getting them all together is the ultimate trifecta. The ability to spend more money than 26 other teams on free agents was a bonus, sort of like having the taxes paid on the winnings. "I think we'll be improved," Parcells said. "We made some moves that should make us a better team than we were. How much better? I don't have a crystal ball."

The Pats probably will go as far as their receivers and special teams let them, but the bottom line is this: Not since the 1986 Super Bowl season has there been such a feeling of optimism. Four years ago, the Pats had the National Football League's lowest season-ticket base—17,500. The 1994 sales are expected to approach 50,000.

COACHING

In Parcells' first season, the Patriots cut their penalty total from a league-worst and franchise-record 1,051 yards to a league-best 468 yards on 64 penalties. After allowing 65 and 63 sacks the previous two seasons, respectively, the Pats gave up only 23—second in the league.

Parcells showed the same ability to field a disciplined and motivated team that he had shown in New York, but he also displayed an offensive flexibility that surprised people. Rather than predictably letting Leonard Russell try to pound away behind a mammoth offensive line, Parcells saw right away that Bledsoe can be a special quarterback. So, he let the rookie throw despite a lack of proven receivers.

TOM DIPACE

Eugene Chung, who started all 16 games last season and didn't miss a snap, will have to battle to keep his starting guard spot.

The nagging question involves Parcells' ability to be his own personnel director. His draft and free-agency acquisitions have been questionable at best since coming from the Giants. Fortunately for him, Parcells the personnel man had Parcells the coach to cover up any errors in judgment.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—After drafting Bledsoe, Parcells cautioned New England fans not to get too optimistic too fast. He shouldn't have worried. The 6-foot-5, 233-pound rookie showed the arm strength, quick release and toughness that people saw at Washington State, but what surprised many were his maturity, poise, intelligence and ability to avoid pressure.

Those elements combined to put him in the starting lineup on opening day. Though he missed 4½ games because of a sprained knee, Bledsoe threw 429 passes and had an impressive touchdown/interception ratio, throwing 15 of each—rare for a rookie who lacked a prime-time receiver.

Scott Secules was waived in the off-season, leaving fourth-year player Scott Zolak as the primary backup.

RUNNING BACKS—Russell was the AFC's second-leading rusher a year ago with 1,088 yards, but he also was expendable because of salary-cap restrictions, his expired contract and his demand for $2 million a year. Parcells saw that signing Russell would be difficult and short-circuited a potentially disastrous holdout by trading for Marion Butts. Like Russell, Butts is a straight-line power back, only with a better average. He gained four yards per carry over his five years with San Diego; Russell averaged fewer than 3.5 in his three years as the starter.

Fullback Kevin Turner is a Daryl Johnston clone—an underappreciated overproducer. Like the Dallas fullback, Turner is an average runner with above-average skills in blocking and receiving. The third-year player from Alabama rarely makes a mistake on an assignment and was dependable coming out of the backfield as a receiver.

Blair Thomas never filled the shoes of Freeman McNeil in New York, but the Patriots signed him as a free agent for comparatively short money. They hope a change of scenery and less pressure could result in his being an effective change of pace to Butts' power style.

RECEIVERS—This is the big area of concern, with four second-year players and a rookie. The most likely candidate to become Bledsoe's prime receiver is Vincent Brisby, a big target with very good speed and still-inconsistent hands. He follows up great catches with horrendous drops, but Parcells is convinced Brisby can be the game-breaker.

Parcells also likes former soccer player Ray Crittenden in the Michael Haynes role of deep threat. Crittenden has speed but must prove to Parcells that he'll make the big catch over the middle to become a featured

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Patriots have excellent coaching and an emerging star in quarterback Drew Bledsoe. The offensive line improved geometrically as the season developed, and the addition of free agent Bob Kratch should make the play up front even better. The addition of Marion Butts gives Parcells a bruiser who averages four yards a carry and 25 carries a game, but the Patriots must hope he hasn't lost a step or two. The secondary will be able to hold leads.

Weaknesses: A lack of experience at wide receiver and quarterback makes the passing game suspect. Defensively, the Pats have little depth at linebacker and little size on the line.

Key to success: With Andre Tippett, Leonard Russell and Marv Cook departed, the Pats lack depth at the critical positions of outside linebacker, running back and tight end. That's why top draft pick Willie McGinest must develop quickly, and why Butts and Ben Coates must stay healthy. The Pats stayed remarkably healthy in 1993, and it must happen again because of the lack of depth in every area.

That's a fact: The Patriots haven't had a winning season since 1988 and were 10-50 in the 1990s before winning their final four games of last season. That was their longest winning streak since 1988, when Raymond Berry was their coach.

Coach Bill Parcells says: "I'm hoping McGinest and Slade can really help our pass rush. . . . We don't have the kind of guys up front who get penetration into the backfield or can physically dominate people inside, so we're going to need outside pressure."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Brisby	Harris	T. Brown
LT	Armstrong	B. Moore	Staten
LG	Rucci	Chung	
C	Arthur	Burch	
RG	Kratch	Gisler	Skene
RT	Harlow	B. Moore	Lane
TE	Coates	Griffith	Burke
WR	Crittenden	Lee	Hawkins
QB	Bledsoe	Zolak	Walker
RB	Butts	Thomas	Croom
FB	Turner	Gash	Legette

DEFENSE

LE	Pitts	Agnew	Hooks
NT	Goad	Collier	Johnson
RE	Washington	Jones	
LOLB	McGinest	White	
LILB	V. Brown	Bavaro	M. Moore
RILB	Collins	White	M. Moore
ROLB	Sabb	Slade	
LCB	Reynolds	Smith	V. Lewis
RCB	Hurst	Wrenn	V. Lewis
S	Guyton	C. Brown	Lambert
S	Ray	Barnett	

SPECIALISTS

K	Bahr	Sisson	KR	Harris	T. Brown
P	O'Neill	Saxon	PR	Harris	T. Brown

performer. The sleeper in the group is Ronnie Harris, another fast receiver who was bothered by a broken hand early last year and never figured on game day. Signed as a free agent, he did impress the coaches in practice and could win the third receiver spot unless a veteran signee beats him out.

Tight end Ben Coates was the leading receiver a year ago (53 receptions, 659 yards). He developed into a Pro Bowl-caliber player who was so good, the Patriots cut two-time Pro Bowler Marv Cook.

LINEMEN—Despite the fact that the line cut its sacks-allowed total drastically last year and did a solid job on run blocking, Parcells made this one of his priorities. His first free-agent signing was Bob Kratch, an aggressive run blocker who played for Parcells in the 1990 Super Bowl and now is handed the starting right guard spot.

With the addition of Kratch and the anticipated development of second-year guard Todd Rucci, a second-round draft pick in 1993, the Pats will have two ultra-aggressive guards who might be vulnerable in pass coverage. Having the quick-footed Mike Arthur at center should provide assistance up the middle, however.

Their health permitting, the tackle spots will be in good hands for the next four years. Bruce Armstrong and Pat Harlow each signed long-term contracts in the off-season, giving Parcells his bookends on the flanks. Each allowed only three sacks last season, and each gives New England a strong run blocker on the outside. Eugene Chung, who started all 16 games last season and didn't miss a snap, is a long shot to retain his starting job. Rucci's more aggressive style gives him the edge.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This is the one area that falls short of Parcells' size standards. Of the five holdover linemen, only end John Washington has the size Parcells likes. Washington, a former Giant, weighs 290; Mike Pitts is only 277, and Ray Agnew, Tim Goad and Aaron Jones are in the 270 range.

Pitts and Washington were imported to provide depth and leadership but wound up starting most of the season ahead of Agnew and the departed Brent Williams. Goad was benched briefly at the start of the season but worked his way back into the starting lineup and was the most productive defensive lineman by the end of the year.

In Parcells' system, the defensive line must hold its ground and occupy blockers so the linebackers have freedom to make plays. But at their size, these linemen again could have trouble filling that job description.

LINEBACKERS—Vincent Brown again was a Pro Bowler without portfolio in the middle, leading New England in tackles for the third consecutive season, this time with a career-high 158. With Andre Tippett retired, Brown becomes the undisputed leader of the defense. If he gets some help up front, he could finally attain league-wide recognition.

Third-year player Todd Collins doesn't play as physically as Brown, but he has more athletic ability. Another year's experience coupled with a rare second consecutive season of good health could make him the perfect complement to Brown.

Rookie Willie McGinest will take over for Tippett on the outside left. Second-year man Chris Slade and holdover starter Dwayne Sabb each will see playing time on the right side. Without Tippett's leadership and experience on the outside, Slade and McGinest could make youngsters' mistakes at critical times.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—For the first time since the 1970s, the secondary will be the strength of the defense. Alarmed by the presence of "a bunch of minnows" in his secondary when he arrived, Parcells beefed up the area with early-season acquisitions of

Continued

1994 NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
11	Bledsoe, Drew	6-5/233	2-14-72	2	Washington State	D1/93	13/12
7	Walker, Jay	6-3/227	1-24-72	R	Howard	D7/94	—
16	Zolak, Scott	6-5/222	12-13-67	4	Maryland	D4/91	3/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
44	Butts, Marion	6-1/248	8-1-66	6	Florida State	T-SD/94	*16/16
26	Croom, Corey	5-11/212	5-22-71	2	Ball State	FA/93	14/1
33	Gash, Sam (FB)	5-11/224	3-7-69	3	Penn State	D8/92	15/4
35	Legette, Burnie (FB)	6-0/243	12-5-70	2	Michigan	FA/93	7/0
31	Thomas, Blair	5-10/202	10-7-67	5	Penn State	FA/94	*11/5
34	Turner, Kevin (FB)	6-0/224	6-12-69	3	Alabama	D3/92	16/9
	RECEIVERS						
82	Brisby, Vincent	6-1/186	1-25-71	2	Northeast Louisiana	D2/93	16/12
80	Brown, Troy (KR/PR)	5-9/183	7-2-71	2	Marshall	D8/93	12/0
85	Burke, John (TE)	6-2/258	9-7-71	R	Virginia Tech	D4/94	—
87	Coates, Ben (TE)	6-4/245	8-16-69	4	Livingstone (N.C.)	D5/91	16/10
81	Crittenden, Ray	6-0/188	3-1-70	2	Virginia Tech	FA/93	16/2
88	Griffith, Richard (TE)	6-5/256	7-31-69	2	Arizona	D5/93	3/0
84	Harris, Ronnie (KR/PR)	5-10/170	6-4-70	2	Oregon	FA/93	5/0
19	Hawkins, Steve	6-5/207	3-16-71	R	Western Michigan	D6/94	—
86	Lee, Kevin	6-1/194	1-1-71	R	Alabama	D2/94	—
86	McMurtry, Greg	6-2/207	10-15-67	5	Michigan	D3/90	14/8
83	Timpson, Michael	5-10/175	6-6-67	6	Penn State	D4/89	16/7
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
78	Armstrong, Bruce (T)	6-4/284	9-7-65	8	Louisville	D1/87	16/16
65	Arthur, Mike (C)	6-3/280	5-7-68	4	Texas A&M	W-Cin/93	13/11
60	Burch, Joe (C)	6-2/280	8-8-71	R	Texas Southern	D3/94	—
69	Chung, Eugene (G)	6-4/295	6-14-69	3	Virginia Tech	D1/92	16/16
67	Gisler, Mike (G)	6-4/300	8-26-69	2	Houston	FA/93	12/0
77	Harlow, Pat (T)	6-6/290	3-16-69	4	Southern California	D1/91	16/16
61	Kratch, Bob (G)	6-3/288	1-6-66	6	Iowa	FA/94	*16/16
68	Lane, Max (T)	6-6/295	2-22-71	R	Navy	D6/94	—
75	Lewis, Bill (C)	6-6/290	7-12-63	9	Nebraska	FA/93	7/5
70	Moore, Brandon (T)	6-7/290	6-21-70	2	Duke	FA/93	16/0
71	Rucci, Todd (G)	6-5/291	7-14-70	1	Penn State	D2/93	2/1
74	Skene, Doug (G)	6-6/295	6-17-70	1	Michigan	FA/93	0/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
92	Agnew, Ray (E)	6-3/272	12-9-67	5	North Carolina State	D1/94	16/1
91	Collier, Ervin (NT)	6-4/280	5-12-71	R	Florida A&M	D3/94	—
72	Goad, Tim (NT)	6-3/280	2-28-66	7	North Carolina	D4/88	16/15
98	Johnson, Mario (NT)	6-3/288	1-30-70	3	Missouri	W-Buf/93	6/0
97	Jones, Aaron (E)	6-5/267	12-18-66	7	Eastern Kentucky	FA/93	11/1
93	Pitts, Mike (E)	6-5/277	9-25-60	12	Alabama	FA/93	16/15
76	Washington, John (E)	6-4/290	2-20-63	9	Oklahoma State	FA/93	16/13
	LINEBACKERS						
52	Bavaro, David	6-0/228	3-27-67	4	Syracuse	FA/93	12/0
59	Brown, Vincent	6-2/245	1-9-65	7	Mississippi Valley State	D2/88	16/16
99	Carthen, Jason	6-3/255	11-16-70	2	Ohio University	W-Buf/93	5/0
54	Collins, Todd	6-2/242	5-27-70	3	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	D3/92	16/12
50	DeOssie, Steve	6-2/248	11-22-62	11	Boston College	FA/94	*15/0
55	McGinest, Willie	6-4/255	12-11-71	R	Southern Cal	D1/94	—
45	Moore, Marty	6-1/242	3-19-71	R	Kentucky	D7/94	—
95	Sabb, Dwayne	6-4/248	10-9-69	3	New Hampshire	D5/92	14/7
53	Slade, Chris	6-4/232	1-30-71	2	Virginia	D2/93	16/5
51	White, David	6-2/235	2-27-70	2	Nebraska	W-Buf/93	6/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
42	Barnett, Harlon (S)	5-11/200	1-2-67	5	Michigan State	W-Cle/93	14/12
30	Brown, Corwin (S)	6-0/192	4-25-70	2	Michigan	D4/93	15/12
29	Guyton, Myron (S)	6-1/205	8-26-67	7	Eastern Kentucky	FA/94	*16/16
37	Hurst, Maurice (CB)	5-10/185	9-17-67	6	Southern (La.)	D4/89	16/16
28	Lambert, Dion (S)	6-0/185	2-12-69	3	UCLA	D4/92	14/4
43	Lewis, Vernon (CB)	5-10/192	10-27-70	2	Pittsburgh	FA/93	10/0
23	Ray, Terry (S)	6-1/205	10-12-69	3	Oklahoma	W-Atl/93	15/1
	Reynolds, Ricky (CB)	5-11/190	1-19-65	8	Washington State	FA/94	*14/13
22	Smith, Rod (CB)	5-11/187	3-12-70	3	Notre Dame	D2/92	16/9
27	Wrenn, Darryl (CB)	6-0/188	1-25-67	2	Pittsburg (Kan.) State	W-Buf/93	12/5
	SPECIALISTS						
3	Bahr, Matt (K)	5-10/175	7-6-56	16	Penn State	W-Phi/93	14/0
5	O'Neill, Pat (P)	6-0/195	2-9-71	R	Syracuse	D5/94	—
4	Saxon, Mike (P)	6-3/200	7-10-62	10	San Diego State	FA/93	16/0
9	Sisson, Scott (K)	6-0/197	7-21-71	2	Georgia Tech	D5/93	13/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Gregory Ballard, WR; Troy Barnett, DE; Bernard Basham, DE; Kirk Botkin, TE; Jean Boyd, S; Todd Dixon, WR; Kevin Glenn, WR; Damacio Green, CB; Mario Henry, WR; Bryan Hooks, DE; Mike Kerr, LB; Don Reynolds, DE; Sylvester Stanley, NT; Mark Staten, T; Eric Stephens, CB; Rich Tylski, G; Jarrod Washington, RB; Derrick Witherspoon, RB.

*Not with Patriots in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Bill Parcells.

Assistant coaches: • Maurice Carthon (offensive assistant) • Romeo Crennel (defensive line) • Al Groh (defensive coordinator) • Fred Hoaglin (offensive line) • Chris Palmer (wide receivers) • Johnny Parker (strength and conditioning) • Ray Perkins (offensive coordinator) • Mike Pope (offensive backs) • Dante Scarnecchia (special assistant) • Mike Sweatman (special teams) • Bob Trott (defensive backs) • Charlie Weis (tight ends).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 5-11 (4th in AFC East); 2-6 in division; 4-10 in conference; 3-5 at home; 2-6 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Parcells' regular-season record: 5-11 in one season with Patriots; 82-60-1 overall in nine seasons with Patriots and Giants.
Parcells' postseason record: 8-3 in five playoffs with Giants (2-0 in Super Bowls).
Team record last five years: 19-61 (.238, ranks 28th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	7	12
Rushing offense	7	13
Passing offense	8	12
Scoring offense	12	22
Total defense	6	13
Rushing defense	12	22
Passing defense	2	4
Scoring defense	6	11
Takeaways	T12	T24
Giveaways	T9	T18
Turnover differential	12	24
Sacks	9	T18
Sacks allowed	2	2

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Willie McGinest	LB	Southern Cal
2nd	Kevin Lee	WR	Alabama
3rd	Ervin Collier	NT	Florida A&M
3rd	Joe Burch	C	Texas Southern
4th	John Burke	TE	Virginia Tech
5th	Pat O'Neill	P	Syracuse
6th	Steve Hawkins	WR	Western Michigan
6th	Max Lane	T	Navy
7th	Jay Walker	QB	Howard
7th	Marty Moore	LB	Kentucky

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Miami	4:00
Sept.	11	BUFFALO	1:00
Sept.	18	at Cincinnati	1:00
Sept.	25	at Detroit	4:00
Oct.	2	GREEN BAY	1:00
Oct.	9	L.A. RAIDERS	4:00
Oct.	16	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Oct.	23	Open date	
Oct.	30	MIAMI	1:00
Nov.	6	at Cleveland	1:00
Nov.	13	MINNESOTA	1:00
Nov.	20	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov.	27	at Indianapolis	8:00
Dec.	4	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Dec.	11	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Dec.	18	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec.	24	at Chicago (Sat.)	12:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at Buffalo	L	14-38
Sept.	12	DETROIT (OT)	L	16-19
Sept.	19	SEATTLE	L	14-17
Sept.	26	at N.Y. Jets	L	7-45
Oct.	3	Open date		
Oct.	10	at Phoenix	W	23-21
Oct.	17	HOUSTON	L	14-28
Oct.	24	at Seattle	L	9-10
Oct.	31	at Indianapolis	L	6-9
Nov.	7	BUFFALO (OT)	L	10-13
Nov.	14	Open date		
Nov.	21	at Miami	L	13-17
Nov.	28	N.Y. JETS	L	0-6
Dec.	5	at Pittsburgh	L	14-17
Dec.	12	CINCINNATI	W	7-2
Dec.	19	at Cleveland	W	20-17
Dec.	26	INDIANAPOLIS	W	38-0
Jan.	2	MIAMI (OT)	W	33-27

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Foxboro Stadium (60,290, grass) • Ticket information: 508-543-1776 • Flagship radio station: WBZ, 1030 AM • Training site: Bryant College, Smithfield, R.I.; 508-543-8200.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Patriots rookie Drew Bledsoe's total of 429 pass attempts (almost 27 per game) was topped only by Babe Parilli and Tony Eason in team history?

MITCHELL LAYTON

The retirement of Andre Tippett makes Vincent Brown the undisputed leader of the defense.

such 200-pounders as Harlon Barnett and Terry Ray, both of whom eventually started at safety.

The newcomers played pretty well, as did the entire secondary. But at the end of the season, Parcells surprised many by making big offers to free agents Myron Guyton (safety) and Ricky Reynolds (cornerback). Each signed a $1.6 million contract. So did holdover Maurice Hurst, putting the secondary among the highest-paid in the NFL.

With Hurst and Reynolds on the corners, the Patriots will be able to play a lot of man coverage on the outside, allowing safeties Guyton, Ray, Corwin Brown, Dion Lambert and Barnett to help more quickly on run support. Third-year man Rod Smith will be the nickel back, taking inside receivers. Darryl Wrenn and Vernon Lewis have excellent potential on the corners.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Still a big question mark. This was the area Parcells tried to beef up early last year, but former Giants Reyna Thompson and Adrian White didn't make many plays and rookie kicker Scott Sisson bombed. He made only 14 of 26 field-goal attempts, and most notably was just eight of 13 from 20-29 yards. That brought about a late-season call to another former Giant—Matt Bahr, who was perfect on five attempts in his three games in New England.

Bahr is not a deep kickoff man, however, so the Pats drafted Syracuse punter/kickoff man Pat O'Neill. The hope is for him to beat out incumbent Mike Saxon for the punter's job and provide deep kickoffs as well as punting skills. That would allow Bahr to concentrate strictly on point production. Saxon was solid enough, averaging 42.4 yards per kick, but Parcells is looking for a stronger leg to give New England a bigger advantage in field-position changeover. ◆

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Matt Bahr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	—	28	—	—
Drew Bledsoe	7	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Vincent Brisby	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Marion Butts	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Ben Coates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ray Crittenden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Corey Croom	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sam Gash	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scott Sisson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	2	—	15	—	—
Blair Thomas	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Michael Timpson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Kevin Turner	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Carroll next in line to lead the Jets from mediocrity

By RICH CIMINI
Newsday

The plight of the Jets resembles the story line from the Bill Murray comedy, "Groundhog Day." You wake up after the season, and everything is the same. Year after year after year. The Jets are trapped in a time warp called mediocrity, and it's absolutely maddening.

Since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970, every team in the league has won at least one division title—except the Jets. They last did it in 1969, when Joe Namath was the quarterback. Talk about being overdue.

No coach in team history has a winning record, not even Hall of Famer Weeb Ewbank. Next up on the coaching carousel is Pete Carroll, who served four years as the defensive coordinator before replacing Bruce Coslet after last season's disappointing 8-8 finish—the Jets' fifth consecutive non-winning season. This is Carroll's first shot as a head coach on any level, but he is not daunted by the challenge.

"We have an opportunity to do something the fans want so badly," he said. "It will be a special achievement, and we'll take great pride in being the ones to get it done."

A year ago, the Jets appeared on their way to a special season, but they lost the last three games to finish out of the money. The main reason was the offense, which scored only 36 points in the last six games. Coslet, hired in 1990 as a so-called offensive whiz, was fired.

Instead of cleaning house, the brass made only one major move—Coslet. Most of the coaching staff remained intact, as did most of the team. The Jets, banking on continuity, stood pat—except for tinkering here and there.

The defense and special teams will be improved, but the offense must be more consistent for the Jets to challenge in the AFC East. Another non-playoff season would be a huge disappointment, another year in a bad dream that began a quarter-century ago.

COACHING

General Manager Dick Steinberg took some heat for not interviewing any head coaching candidates before promoting Carroll, but he says Carroll is an ideal fit because of the continuity factor.

TOM BERG

Johnny Johnson was the only running back in the league last season to lead his team in rushing and receiving.

Indeed, Carroll kept the same offensive and defensive systems in place, hiring coordinators who share the same philosophy. He elevated defensive line coach Greg Robinson to defensive coordinator and hired former 49ers assistant Ray Sherman as offensive coordinator—a new position on the staff. Since '83, the offense had been run by the head coaches, Joe Walton and Coslet.

Carroll chose not to wear two hats. Smart move. Instead of getting consumed by X's and O's, he will be able to concentrate on the other facets of his job. Carroll isn't a yeller, but he seems to have a knack for motivating players. He also won't let his ego influence coaching decisions, which often was the case with Coslet.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Once again, Boomer Esiason will be under the microscope, but this time for different reasons. After proving early last season that reports of his demise were greatly exaggerated, Esiason's goal in '94 is to give the Jets a complete season.

Esiason started fast, playing like an MVP candidate, but he threw only two touchdown passes in the final seven games as the entire offense went into a mysterious funk.

With solid pass protection, and with Sherman bringing a fresh approach to the offense, Esiason should have a productive year. If he goes into a slump, Carroll can bring in former Colts backup Jack Trudeau, who was signed to replace Browning Nagle.

Jeff Blake and seventh-round pick Glenn Foley will battle for the No. 3 job.

RUNNING BACKS—The days of running back-by-committee are over. Johnny Johnson is the main man. He earned it.

Johnson was the only running back in the league last season to lead his team in rushing and receiving. When Blair Thomas suffered his annual hamstring injury at midseason, Johnson stepped to the forefront. He has the size (6-foot-3, 220 pounds) to be a workhorse and the agility to make plays as a receiver.

All Johnson lacks is breakaway speed. That's where Adrian Murrell comes in. The fastest of the Jets' backs, Murrell fits the mold of an ideal change-of-pace back.

The other key player is Brad Baxter, a blue-collar fullback who likes to make tacklers black and blue. His production dipped last season, but he still is a solid short-yardage back and a punishing blocker.

RECEIVERS—At one time, the receiving corps was a source of pride. Not anymore. Al Toon's premature retirement in 1992 and Chris

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Jets do a fine job of protecting the quarterback and controlling the clock with a formidable running game. Defensively, they play the run well and have shown a knack for forcing turnovers. The linebackers and defensive backs are strong.

Weaknesses: Aside from tight end Johnny Mitchell, the Jets have no major scoring threats. The lack of depth at wide receiver is a big concern. The defensive line is devoid of a big-time pass rusher, a weakness that often puts too much pressure on the secondary.

Keys to success: The Jets must find a way to generate a consistent pass rush. Another 32 sacks, last year's total, just won't do. Boomer Esiason must play as well in December as he does in September. Johnny Johnson, who will have to carry the offense at times, needs at least 1,600 total yards. Rob Moore must prove he is more than a possession receiver. Place-kicker Cary Blanchard must get his head together after last season's nightmarish ending.

That's a fact: The Jets haven't had a winning record at home since 1988. Over the last five seasons, their record as the home team at Giants Stadium is a pitiful 14-26. On the road, including one loss to the Giants in East Rutherford, it's 16-24. Go figure.

Coach Pete Carroll says: "Probably the most exciting part of this job is to be doing it in New York. . . . It would be so special to do it here and do it well. I know some people don't look at it that way—New York poses great challenges outside of coaching football—but to do it here would be tremendous."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Moore	Shedd	Parker
LT	Criswell	McIver	
LG	Duffy	Ware	
C	Sweeney	Dixon	
RG	White	Dixon	
RT	Malamala	Brown	Willig
TE	Mitchell	Thornton	F. Baxter
WR	Monk	Yarborough	Carpenter
QB	Esiason	Trudeau	Foley
FB	B. Baxter	Chaffey	Lester
RB	Johnson	Murrell	R. Anderson

DEFENSE

LE	M. Washington	Frase	Rudolph
NT	Evans	Benfatti	Frase
DT	Rudolph	Frase	
RE	Lageman	Frase	
SLB	Houston	Barber	
MLB	Jones	Clifton	
WLB	Lewis	Cadrez	Morris
LCB	A. Glenn	Turner	Green
RCB	Hasty	Prior	
SS	B. Washington	Terrell	Green
FS	Lott	Terrell	Turner

SPECIALISTS

K	Blanchard		
P	Hansen		
KR	Murrell	Parker	
PR	A. Glenn		

NEW YORK JETS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Pete Carroll.

Assistant coaches: • Larry Beightol (offensive line) • Don Breaux (tight ends) • Larry Coyer (defensive line) • Ed Donatell (defensive backs) • Foge Fazio (linebackers) • Walt Harris (quarterbacks) • Greg Mackrides (strength and conditioning) • Richard Mann (receivers) • Greg Robinson (defensive coordinator) • Johnny Roland (running backs) • Brad Seely (special teams) • Ray Sherman (offensive coordinator) • Steve Trimble (defensive assistant/quality control) • Sparky Woods (offensive assistant).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 8-8 (3rd in AFC East); 5-3 in division; 6-6 in conference; 3-5 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Carroll's regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.
Team record last five years: 30-50 (.375, ranks T21st in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	6	9
Rushing offense	4	9
Passing offense	6	10
Scoring offense	11	21
Total defense	2	8
Rushing defense	5	5
Passing defense	8	17
Scoring defense	3	6
Takeaways	T5	T5
Giveaways	T5	T8
Turnover differential	5	7
Sacks	T10	T21
Sacks allowed	1	1

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Aaron Glenn	CB	Texas A&M
2nd	Ryan Yarborough	WR	Wyoming
3rd	Lou Benfatti	NT	Penn State
4th	Orlando Parker	WR	Troy State
5th	Horace Morris	LB	Tennessee
6th	Fred Lester	FB	Alabama A&M
7th	Glenn Foley	QB	Boston College

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	at Buffalo	4:00
Sept. 11	DENVER	4:00
Sept. 18	at Miami	1:00
Sept. 25	CHICAGO	8:00
Oct. 2	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct. 9	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Oct. 16	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Oct. 23	Open date	
Oct. 30	at Indianapolis	4:00
Nov. 6	BUFFALO	4:00
Nov. 13	at Green Bay	3:00
Nov. 20	at Minnesota	3:00
Nov. 27	MIAMI	1:00
Dec. 4	at New England	1:00
Dec. 10	DETROIT (Sat.)	12:30
Dec. 18	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Dec. 24	at Houston (Sat.)	3:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept. 5	DENVER	L	20-26
Sept. 12	at Miami	W	24-14
Sept. 19	Open date		
Sept. 26	NEW ENGLAND	W	45-7
Oct. 3	PHILADELPHIA	L	30-35
Oct. 10	at L.A. Raiders	L	20-24
Oct. 17	Open date		
Oct. 24	BUFFALO	L	10-19
Oct. 31	at N.Y. Giants	W	10-6
Nov. 7	MIAMI	W	27-10
Nov. 14	at Indianapolis	W	31-17
Nov. 21	CINCINNATI	W	17-12
Nov. 28	at New England	W	6-0
Dec. 5	INDIANAPOLIS	L	6-9
Dec. 11	at Washington	W	3-0
Dec. 18	DALLAS	L	7-28
Dec. 26	at Buffalo	L	14-16
Jan. 2	at Houston	L	0-24

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Giants Stadium (77,121, artificial) • Ticket information: 516-538-7200 • Flagship radio station: WFAN, 660 AM • Training site: Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.; 516-538-6600.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Jets have gone four consecutive seasons without a player being voted as a starter in the Pro Bowl? That's the longest drought in the NFL. The last Jets player to make it was safety Erik McMillan, a starter in the 1990 Pro Bowl.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Fred Baxter	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Cary Blanchard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	5	—	31	—	—
Pat Chaffey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Boomer Esiason	7	8	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Johnny Johnson	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Johnny Mitchell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Art Monk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Rob Moore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Adrian Murrell	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
James Thornton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Jack Trudeau	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Brian Washington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

CHRIS SCHWENK

This probably will be Ronnie Lott's final season, so take a good look at one of the greats.

Burkett's unexpected retirement in the off-season leave Rob Moore and a lot of questions.

The club boosted the position in the off-season by signing Art Monk, the NFL's all-time leading receiver with 888 career catches. Ryan Yarborough, a second-round pick from Wyoming, also should figure in the mix. His production in college was staggering, but it's a big jump from the Western Athletic Conference to the NFL. The Jets also are high on fourth-rounder Orlando Parker, a world-class sprinter with a limited football background.

After four solid, if not super, seasons, it's time for Moore to fulfill his potential. If he stays healthy, Moore can catch 80 passes.

The most exciting player is tight end Johnny Mitchell, an incredible, but immature talent. When his mind catches up to his body, he will be a fixture in the Pro Bowl. Because Mitchell isn't a good blocker, the No. 2 tight end must fill the void. James Thornton is the right man, but he could be a salary-cap casualty. That would mean a bigger role for Fred Baxter, a promising second-year player.

LINEMEN—The line went from a potential trouble spot to a bright spot in one year. Most observers figured Esiason would get creamed last season, but he was the least-sacked quarterback in the league. Part of that was his ability to throw quickly, but the line also did its job splendidly.

The only member of the starting five not returning is left guard Dave Cadigan, who wasn't re-signed. He will be replaced by Roger Duffy, the top reserve the last two seasons. The leader of the group is center Jim Sweeney, who has played in 142 consecutive games.

The team's most talented linemen are left tackle Jeff Criswell and right guard Dwayne White, each of whom is on the cusp of Pro Bowl status. Criswell is one of the most underrated left tackles in the AFC. Protecting Esiason's blind side is Siupeli Malamala, who did solid work in his first year as a starter.

The Jets are short on experienced backups. Tackle James Brown (one career start) and center Cal Dixon (none) are the top reserves.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Jets, taking a page from the Dallas Cowboys' success story, plan to rotate at least seven players. Their philosophy is, "We don't have a dominant pass rusher, so we'll come at you in waves." Somehow, they must generate more pressure on the quarterback.

The coaches expect a big year from right end Jeff Lageman, who had a team-high 8½ sacks last season despite a bum shoulder and a herniated disc in his neck. He underwent a shoulder arthroscopy in the off-season, but he should be 100 percent. The team also needs more production from left end Marvin Washington.

The key newcomer is Donald Evans, who left the Steelers to replace Scott Mersereau at nose tackle. It's a bit of a gamble, considering Evans never has played on the nose.

The depth is decent, with Paul Frase, Coleman Rudolph and third-round pick Lou Benfatti expected to be in the rotation.

LINEBACKERS—A few years ago, this was a disaster area. Now, it just may be the strongest position on the team. In Mo Lewis and Marvin Jones, the Jets have two of the most promising young linebackers in the AFC.

Jones, the No. 4 overall pick in the '93 draft, will be watched closely. He suffered a season-ending hip fracture last November, raising speculation that his career could be in jeopardy. After an intensive rehabilitation, Jones will be fully recovered, according to team doctors. Good thing for the Jets, because Jones—who is expected to unseat Kyle Clifton in the middle—has star potential.

Lewis, the team leader in tackles last season, gets better every year and could be on the verge of Pro Bowl status. He is not flashy in his weakside slot, just a steady workhorse. Playing over the tight end is Bobby Houston, easily the most improved player on defense.

Clifton, 32, is near the end of his career, but he is a good guy to have around because of his experience.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Just call the secondary, "Three Men and a Baby." The elders are free safety Ronnie Lott, strong safety Brian Washington and right cornerback James Hasty. Playing the baby is first-round pick Aaron Glenn, a 5-8 speed demon from Texas A&M.

Glenn is expected to start at left corner, replacing Eric Thomas, who was cut in the off-season. Glenn is a tremendously gifted athlete, but like all rookie corners, he will take his share of lumps. Being surrounded by such an experienced group will help his transition.

This probably will be Lott's final season, so take a good look at one of the all-time greats. His partner, Washington, complains too much about not receiving enough recognition, but it doesn't seem to affect his work on the field. Hasty is as solid as they come.

The depth is so-so, which is why Pat Terrell was signed. Terrell, formerly of the Rams, will be used as the nickel back and will back up Washington and Lott.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Two words: Much improved.

The Jets unloaded punter Louie Aguiar (a long-overdue move) and signed free agent Brian Hansen, formerly of the Browns. Hansen is no Ray Guy, but he is an above-average punter who knows how to kick in lousy conditions.

With the addition of Glenn and Parker, the Jets added spunk to their moribund return units. Glenn led NCAA Division I-A last year with a 19.9-yard punt-return average. He also may get a shot to return kickoffs. Parker, a sprint champion in college, is envisioned as a big-play kickoff returner, something the Jets haven't had in many years.

The big question is Cary Blanchard, a reliable kicker the last two seasons—until he was asked to make a field goal with a game on the line. He missed three times in the next-to-last game, against the Bills, including a potential game-winner from 42 yards. It may have cost the Jets a wild-card berth. Charlie Baumann, out of the NFL last season, was brought in to challenge Blanchard. ◆

1994 NEW YORK JETS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
9	Blake, Jeff	6-0/202	12-4-70	3	East Carolina	D6/92	0/0
7	Esiason, Boomer	6-5/224	4-17-61	11	Maryland	T-Cin/93	16/16
14	Foley, Glenn	6-2/205	10-10-70	R	Boston College	D7/94	—
	Trudeau, Jack	6-3/227	9-9-62	9	Illinois	FA/94	*5/5
	RUNNING BACKS						
20	Anderson, Richie	6-2/225	9-13-71	2	Penn State	D6/93	7/0
30	Baxter, Brad (FB)	6-1/235	5-5-67	5	Alabama State	FA/89	16/13
28	Chaffey, Pat (FB)	6-1/220	4-19-67	4	Oregon State	PlanB/92	3/0
39	Johnson, Johnny	6-3/220	6-11-68	5	San Jose State	T-Phi0/93	15/9
35	Lester, Fredrick (FB)	6-0/232	8-1-71	R	Alabama A&M	D6/94	—
29	Murrell, Adrian (KR)	5-11/212	10-16-70	2	West Virginia	D5/93	16/0
	RECEIVERS						
17	Anderson, Stevie	6-5/215	5-12-70	1	Grambling State	FA/93	0/0
84	Baxter, Fred (TE)	6-3/260	6-14-71	2	Auburn	D5/93	7/0
82	Carpenter, Rob	6-2/190	8-1-68	4	Syracuse	PlanB/92	16/0
86	Mitchell, Johnny (TE)	6-3/241	1-20-71	3	Nebraska	D1/92	14/14
	Monk, Art	6-3/210	12-5-57	15	Syracuse	FA/94	*16/5
85	Moore, Rob	6-3/205	9-27-68	5	Syracuse	D1/90	13/13
89	Parker, Orlando (KR)	5-11/190	3-7-72	R	Troy State	D4/94	—
16	Shedd, Kenny (KR)	5-9/171	2-14-71	1	Northern Iowa	D5/93	0/0
80	Thornton, James (TE)	6-2/242	2-8-65	7	Cal State Fullerton	FA/93	13/6
87	Yarborough, Ryan	6-2/190	4-26-71	R	Wyoming	D2/94	—
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
76	Brown, James (T)	6-6/321	1-3-70	2	Virginia State	W-Ind/92	14/1
66	Cadigan, Dave (G)	6-4/285	4-6-65	7	Southern California	D1/88	16/16
69	Criswell, Jeff (T)	6-7/291	3-7-64	8	Graceland (Ia.)	FA/88	16/16
52	Dixon, Cal (C/G)	6-4/292	10-11-69	3	Florida	D5/92	16/0
62	Duffy, Roger (G/C)	6-3/294	7-16-67	5	Penn State	D8/90	16/1
75	Malamala, Siupeli (T)	6-5/315	1-15-69	3	Washington	D3/92	15/15
53	Sweeney, Jim (C/G)	6-4/284	8-8-62	11	Pittsburgh	D2/84	16/16
68	Ware, David (T/G)	6-6/285	2-21-70	2	Virginia	D4/93	0/0
67	White, Dwayne (G)	6-2/315	2-10-67	5	Alcorn State	D7/90	15/15
77	Willig, Matt (T)	6-8/305	1-21-69	2	Southern California	FA/92	3/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
78	Benfatti, Lou (NT)	6-4/278	3-9-71	R	Penn State	D3/94	—
60	Evans, Donald (NT)	6-2/282	3-14-64	7	Winston-Salem (N.C.) State	FA/94	*16/16
91	Frase, Paul (T/E)	6-5/270	5-5-65	7	Syracuse	D6/88	16/4
96	Gunn, Mark (T/E)	6-5/279	7-24-68	4	Pittsburgh	D4/91	12/0
56	Lageman, Jeff (E)	6-5/266	7-18-67	6	Virginia	D1/89	16/16
	Oglesby, Alfred (NT)	6-3/285	1-27-67	4	Houston	FA/94	*0/0
71	Pickel, Bill (T)	6-5/265	11-5-59	12	Rutgers	PlanB/91	16/3
92	Rudolph, Coleman (E/T)	6-4/270	10-22-70	2	Georgia Tech	D2/93	4/0
97	Washington, Marvin (E)	6-6/272	10-22-65	6	Idaho	D6/89	16/16
	LINEBACKERS						
98	Barber, Kurt	6-4/249	1-5-69	3	Southern California	D2/92	13/0
50	Cadrez, Glenn	6-3/245	1-20-70	3	Houston	D6/92	16/0
59	Clifton, Kyle	6-4/236	8-23-62	11	Texas Christian	D3/84	16/16
55	Houston, Bobby	6-2/245	10-26-67	4	North Carolina State	PB/91	16/14
49	Johnson, Troy	6-2/236	11-10-64	6	Oklahoma	FA/94	0/0
54	Jones, Marvin	6-2/240	6-28-72	2	Florida State	D1/93	9/0
57	Lewis, Mo	6-3/250	10-21-69	4	Georgia	D3/91	16/16
58	Morris, Horace	6-2/230	5-29-71	R	Tennessee	D5/94	—
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
33	Glenn, Aaron (CB/PR)	5-9/185	9-16-72	R	Texas A&M	D1/94	—
21	Green, Victor (CB/S)	5-9/195	12-8-69	2	Akron	FA/93	11/0
40	Hasty, James (CB)	6-0/201	5-23-65	7	Washington State	D3/88	16/16
42	Lott, Ronnie (S)	6-1/203	5-8-59	14	Southern California	FA/93	16/16
26	Pieri, Damon (S)	6-0/186	9-25-70	1	San Diego State	FA/93	5/0
37	Prior, Anthony (CB/S)	5-11/185	3-27-70	2	Washington State	FA/93	16/0
	Terrell, Pat (S)	6-0/195	3-18-68	5	Notre Dame	FA/94	*13/3
23	Turner, Marcus (CB/S)	6-0/190	1-13-66	6	UCLA	PlanB/92	16/0
48	Washington, Brian (S)	6-1/210	9-10-65	6	Nebraska	W-Cle/89	16/16
31	Young, Lonnie (S/CB)	6-1/196	7-18-63	10	Michigan State	T-Pho/91	9/2
	SPECIALISTS						
6	Baumann, Charlie (K)	6-1/205	8-25-67	4	West Virginia	FA/94	0/0
10	Blanchard, Cary (K)	6-1/225	11-5-68	3	Oklahoma State	W/92	16/0
11	Hansen, Brian (P)	6-4/215	10-26-60	10	Sioux Falls (S.D.)	FA/94	*16/0
4	Shale, Chris (P)	6-0/200	6-27-68	1	Bowling Green State	FA/94	0/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Kyle Adams, G; Tuineau Alipate, LB; Alan Allen, WR; Mike Anderson, LB; Lavar Ball, TE; Gary Beckford, DB; Paul Burke, TE; Lindsey Chapman, RB; Jeff Cooke, DT; Jackie Crisp, T; Rob Davis, DT; Cecil Doggette, DB; Bill Fisher, DT; Tyler Harrison, G; Everett McIver, T; Craig Mitter, RB; Chico Nelson, DB; Fran Papasedero, DT; Dan Schmidt, C; Steve Solari, LB; Robert Trice, RB; Terrence Wisdom, G; Paul Yatkowski, DT.
*Not with Jets in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

Bengals are spending, but will they start winning?

By GEOFF HOBSON
Cincinnati Enquirer

If money can't buy you love, Mike Brown hopes it can at least garner respectability.

Since the death of their founder, Paul Brown, on the eve of the 1991 season, the Cincinnati Bengals have posted a desultory 11-37 record. But Mike Brown, the team's vice president and general manager, broke free from his family's notoriously conservative fiscal policies by spending nearly $5 million on free agents during the off-season.

Then Brown, once perceived as the point man for the league's hard-liners, angered his NFL brethren by doling out another $5 million to sign Ohio State defensive lineman Dan Wilkinson, the top pick of the draft. It was the largest signing bonus ever given to an NFL rookie.

The Wilkinson signing spoke volumes about where the Bengals want to go—both on and off the field. Wilkinson's agent, Leigh Steinberg, had become a thorn in Brown's side in contract negotiations involving two earlier Bengal first-round picks: Jason Buck (1987) and David Klingler (1992). Both players held out until September of their rookie years, and Brown wanted to send the message to Cincinnati's fans that he's now willing to spend money to compete. The Bengals signed Wilkinson to a $14.4 million deal less than two weeks after the draft and also made a major concession, inserting a clause in the contract that can shrink its length from six years to four if the 6-foot-5, 300-pounder plays in at least 35 percent of Cincinnati's defensive plays this year. Since the Bengals plan to use Wilkinson's speed and size to spearhead their new 4-3 alignment, that shouldn't be a problem.

Brown didn't just pump cash into the defense, however. Free-agent signees Eric Moore and Darrick Brilz immediately found starting spots on an offensive line that went from laughable to legitimate, and wide receiver Tim McGee proved you can go home again when he returned to Cincinnati after a one-year hiatus in Washington.

Welcoming a player back after he left would have been frowned upon in the Paul Brown era. But, as his son observed, "You'll see a lot of things you didn't see before free agency."

A few more victories would be a sight for sore eyes.

COACHING

As a head coach, Dave Shula does two things well: organize and motivate. He has presided over three successful drafts in Cincinnati, and last year's young team played with more grit and gumption than did Sam Wyche's more talented, more experienced 1991 club that compiled the same record (3-13).

But can Shula win? After all, he's 8-24 in two seasons. The Bengals must think so, having signed him to two-year contract extension at the end of last season. But with an upgraded offensive line, a defense infused with fresh talent, a quarterback heading into his third year and a vote of confidence from management, Shula's honeymoon is over. He must turn his enthusiasm and organizational skills into victories.

After taking some heat for an unimaginative playbook that produced the fewest touchdowns (16) in the NFL last season, Shula hired former Jets coach Bruce Coslet to be the team's new offensive coordinator. Well, Coslet's not exactly "new" since he coached and played in Cincinnati for 17 seasons before leaving for New York in 1990. Coslet was fired after compiling a 26-38 record in four seasons with the Jets, however, and if the Bengals struggle early this season, the club is bound to have to endure plenty of Coslet-for-Shula stories in the papers.

One of Shula's strengths is surrounding himself with solid people, and new defensive coordinator Larry Peccatiello, who earned three Super Bowl rings in Washington, certainly fits that mold. It's too bad Shula hasn't been blessed with players as good as his coaches.

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

With the offensive line having been upgraded for the 1994 season, running back Harold Green has to produce.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—For all the money poured into this team, the Bengals know they'll only be as good as their quarterback. Klingler impressed the organization with his off-season work, becoming lighter and stronger, but the bottom line is he threw just six touchdown passes last season, an amazingly low total for someone who started 13 games. Coslet and quarterbacks coach Ken Anderson worked daily with Klingler on his mechanics, particularly his run-and-shoot habit of throwing on the run and whipping the ball sidearm instead of three-quarters.

The Bengals believe a more experienced line, more depth at wide receiver and Coslet's diversified, wide-open schemes will jump-start Klingler's career. And success, they believe, will breed leadership. But if Klingler gets off to a slow start, don't be surprised to see the club turn to another Texas quarterback, fourth-year man Don Hollas. He was a productive backup in 1992 before missing all of last season after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery. Hollas may assert himself in the huddle more than any quarterback the Bengals have, and his ability to run

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: New offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet will put spice into a dull offense that scored the fewest touchdowns in the league last season. New defensive coordinator Larry Peccatiello is an experienced hand with a proven track record from his days with the Washington Redskins. Harold Green rushed for 1,170 yards two years ago, and the offensive line has been replenished with experienced veterans. The secondary is seasoned and aggressive, and place-kicker Doug Pelfrey is a consistent weapon.

Weaknesses: There's no depth at linebacker or cornerback, and the depth is fragile at best at wide receiver. Quarterback David Klingler hasn't performed well over 16 games in either of his first two seasons. The defensive line is big but inexperienced and must improve upon 27th-place finishes against the run and in sacking the quarterback.

Keys to success: Klingler and Green must have big years and the key players on defense—Dan Wilkinson, John Copeland, Tim Krumrie, Steve Tovar and Darryl Williams—must stay healthy.

That's a fact: Last season, the Bengals did not have a player selected to the Pro Bowl for the first time since 1980.

Coach Dave Shula says: "I'm sick to death of losing. I'm like everyone else. Fans want to see (a winner). Mike Brown wants to see it. Our players want to see it. We're all thirsting to get this thing turned around. We've been through enough."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Pickens	Stegall	Rembert
LT	Moore	Sargent	Pollard
LG	Kozerski	D. Jones	
C	Moyer	Kozerski	
RG	Brilz	Moyer	Kozerski
RT	Walter	Reynolds	
TE	To. McGee	Sadowski	Frisch
WR	Query	Ti. McGee	D. Scott
QB	Klingler	Hollas	Schroeder
RB	Green	Broussard	Miles
FB	Fenner	Cothran	Ball

DEFENSE

LE	Copeland	Stallings	
LT	Krumrie	Frier	
RT	Wilkinson	Hinkle	
RE	A. Williams	Parten	Stubbs
LOLB	Francis	McGill	Gordon
MLB	Tovar	Shaw	
ROLB	McDonald	Stephens	Shine
LCB	Brim	Sawyer	Simmons
RCB	R. Jones	Wheeler	Duckett
SS	Oliver	Vinson	Gunn
FS	D. Williams	Wheeler	Carpenter

SPECIALISTS

P	Lee Johnson		
K	Pelfrey	Lee Johnson	

KR	Robinson	Ball	D. Scott
PR	Robinson	Sawyer	D. Scott

was a big key to his success in college. He looked nimble in spring drills.

Veterans Jay Schroeder and Erik Wilhelm will vie for the third spot, with Schroeder's arm and experience giving him the edge.

RUNNING BACKS—After a Pro Bowl season in 1992, Harold Green grumped about his contract, his coach and his blocking last year. And it showed. He finished with just 589 yards rushing and became the first player in league history with at least 200 attempts (215) who failed to average at least 3.0 yards per carry (2.7). Green had a point about having to run behind an inexperienced line, but with the line having been upgraded for '94, he has to produce.

The Bengals have given Green more support in the backfield, too. They signed Steve Broussard, a former No. 1 draft pick of the Falcons, for his speed and receiving skills, and drafted Ohio State fullback Jeff Cothran, who figures to be the blocking back this team has lacked since the late 1980s. Derrick Fenner and Eric Ball are productive short-yardage backs.

RECEIVERS—With the addition of second-round pick Darnay Scott, McGee's return and Coslet's fondness for big plays, the Bengals hope to improve a passing game that ranked next-to-last in the league. Carl Pickens and Jeff Query will start, with Scott pushing Query as the team seeks a wideout with blazing speed. The fifth receiver could be Reggie Rembert, who has more DUIs (three) than touchdown receptions (one) in his 28-game NFL career.

Second-year man Tony McGee has loads of talent and will be asked to shoulder a big load in Coslet's offense, which is designed for big plays by the tight end. Coslet is partial to double and triple tight-end sets, but the Bengals don't have any clear-cut candidates for the other jobs heading into camp.

LINEMEN—The signings of Brilz, who will start at right guard, and Moore, who will start at left tackle, give the Bengals some much-needed experience on a line that had become a haven for free agents and rookies. Cincinnati did draft two tackles in the late rounds (Trent Pollard and Jerry Reynolds), but they'll be used purely to supply depth this year.

The acquisitions of Brilz and Moore also give the Bengals some versatility in case of injuries. Left guard Bruce Kozerski can play center or tackle, and Brilz and center Ken Moyer have played both guard spots. Joe Walter proved last year that he's strictly a right tackle, albeit a valuable one.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The defensive line has been a decade-long sore point in Cincinnati, which ranked 27th in the league with a paltry 22 sacks last year.

Eventually, the Bengals would like to move John Copeland, their top draft pick of a year ago, next to Wilkinson at tackle and bring 34-year-old warrior Tim Krumrie in off the bench. However, in 1994, Krumrie will start alongside Wilkinson at tackle, with Copeland and Alfred Williams on the ends.

At 6-6 and 240 pounds, Williams is more of a linebacker than a lineman, and the Bengals aren't sure he's strong enough to play on the

Continued

1994 CINCINNATI BENGALS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
12	Hollas, Don	6-3/215	11-22-67	3	Rice	D4/91	0/0
7	Klingler, David	6-2/205	2-17-69	3	Houston	D1/92	14/13
10	Schroeder, Jay	6-4/215	6-28-61	11	UCLA	FA/93	9/3
4	Wilhelm, Erik	6-3/217	11-16-65	5	Oregon State	FA/93	1/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
42	Ball, Eric (FB/PR)	6-2/220	7-1-66	6	UCLA	D2/89	15/1
21	Benjamin, Ryan	5-7/183	4-23-70	2	Pacific	FA/93	1/0
33	Broussard, Steve	5-7/201	2-22-67	5	Washington State	FA/94	*8/0
46	Cothran, Jeff (FB)	6-2/231	6-28-71	R	Ohio State	D3/94	—
44	Fenner, Derrick (FB)	6-3/228	4-6-67	6	Gardner-Webb (N.C.)	PlanB/92	15/14
28	Green, Harold	6-2/222	1-29-68	5	South Carolina	D2/90	15/15
36	Miles, Ostell	6-0/236	8-6-71	3	Houston	D9/92	15/2
	RECEIVERS						
47	Frisch, David (TE)	6-7/260	6-22-70	2	Colorado State	FA/93	11/2
85	McGee, Tim	5-10/183	8-7-64	9	Tennessee	FA/94	*13/12
82	McGee, Tony (TE)	6-3/246	4-21-71	2	Michigan	D2/93	15/15
80	Pickens, Carl	6-2/206	3-23-70	3	Tennessee	D2/92	13/12
89	Query, Jeff	6-0/165	3-7-67	6	Millikin	W-Hou/92	16/16
88	Rembert, Reggie	6-5/200	12-25-66	3	West Virginia	FA/94	3/0
81	Robinson, Patrick (KR/PR)	5-8/176	10-3-69	2	Tennessee State	W-Hou/93	15/3
87	Sadowski, Troy (TE)	6-5/250	12-8-65	5	Georgia	FA/94	*13/1
86	Scott, Darnay (KR/PR)	6-1/180	7-7-72	R	San Diego State	D2/94	—
84	Stegall, Milt	6-0/184	1-25-70	3	Miami of Ohio	FA/92	4/0
49	Thomason, Jeff (TE)	6-4/233	12-30-69	3	Oregon	FA/92	3/0
48	Thompson, Craig (TE)	6-2/244	1-13-69	3	North Carolina A&T	D5/92	13/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
60	Bradley, Chuck (T)	6-5/296	4-9-70	R	Kentucky	W-Hou/93	—
65	Brilz, Darrick (G)	6-3/287	2-14-64	8	Oregon State	FA-Sea/94	*16/16
72	Brumfield, Scott (T)	6-8/320	8-19-70	2	Brigham Young	FA/93	16/7
68	Johnson, Donnell (T)	6-7/310	12-24-69	2	Johnson C. Smith (N.C.)	FA/93	7/0
66	Jones, Dan (G)	6-7/294	7-22-70	2	Maine	FA/93	15/5
64	Kozerski, Bruce (G/C)	6-4/287	4-2-62	11	Holy Cross	D9/84	15/15
75	Linn, Jack (G/T)	6-5/285	6-10-67	3	West Virginia	W-Det/93	3/1
62	Moore, Eric (T)	6-5/290	1-21-65	7	Indiana	FA/94	*7/5
73	Moyer, Ken (G/C)	6-7/297	11-19-66	5	Toledo	FA/89	16/14
76	Pollard, Trent (T)	6-4/325	11-20-72	R	Eastern Washington	D5/94	—
78	Reynolds, Jerry (T)	6-6/315	4-2-70	R	UNLV	D6a/94	—
77	Sargent, Kevin (T)	6-6/284	3-31-69	3	Eastern Washington	FA/92	1/1
74	Scott, Tom (T)	6-6/330	6-25-70	2	East Carolina	D6/93	13/13
63	Walter, Joe (T)	6-7/292	6-18-63	10	Texas Tech	D7/85	16/16
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
92	Copeland, John (E)	6-3/286	9-20-70	2	Alabama	D1/93	14/14
97	Frier, Mike (T)	6-5/299	3-20-69	3	Appalachian State	W-Sea/92	16/6
98	Hinkle, George (T)	6-5/288	3-17-65	7	Arizona	FA/93	13/9
71	Howe, Garry (T)	6-1/298	6-20-68	3	Colorado	FA/93	1/0
69	Krumrie, Tim (T)	6-2/274	5-20-60	12	Wisconsin	D10/83	16/16
95	Nix, Roosevelt (E)	6-6/292	4-17-67	3	Central State (O.)	D8/92	10/0
93	Parten, Ty (E)	6-4/272	10-13-69	2	Arizona	D3a/93	11/1
79	Stallings, Ramondo (E)	6-7/285	11-21-71	R	San Diego State	D7/94	—
96	Stubbs, Daniel (E)	6-4/264	1-3-65	7	Miami, Fla.	W-Dal/91	16/0
99	Wilkinson, Dan (T)	6-5/300	3-13-73	R	Ohio State	D1/94	—
94	Williams, Alfred (E)	6-6/240	11-6-68	4	Colorado	D1/91	16/16
67	von Oelhoffen, Kimo (T)	6-4/300	1-30-71	R	Boise State	D6/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
50	Francis, James	6-5/252	8-4-68	5	Baylor	D1/90	14/12
58	Gordon, Alex	6-5/245	9-14-64	8	Cincinnati	PlanB/91	16/3
56	McDonald, Ricardo	6-2/235	11-8-69	3	Pittsburgh	D4/92	14/12
59	McGill, Karmeeleyah	6-3/224	1-11-71	2	Notre Dame	FA/93	4/0
90	Shaw, Eric	6-3/248	9-17-71	3	Louisiana Tech	D12/92	14/9
52	Shine, Steve	6-6/232	11-28-70	R	Northwestern	D3/94	—
91	Smith, Brad	6-2/228	9-5-69	2	Texas Christian	FA/93	7/0
53	Stephens, Santo	6-4/232	6-16-69	2	Temple	W-KC/94	*16/0
51	Tovar, Steve	6-3/244	4-25-70	2	Ohio State	D3/93	16/9
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
43	Brim, Mike (CB)	6-0/192	1-23-66	7	Virginia Union	FA/93	16/16
32	Carpenter, Ron (S)	6-1/188	1-20-70	2	Miami of Ohio	W-Min/93	6/0
41	Duckett, Forey (CB)	6-3/195	2-5-70	1	Nevada	D5/93	0/0
24	Grant, Alan (CB)	5-10/187	10-1-66	5	Stanford	W-SF/93	*12/1
27	Gunn, Lance (S)	6-3/222	1-9-70	2	Texas	D7/93	8/8
25	Jones, Rod (CB)	6-0/185	3-31-64	9	Southern Methodist	T-TB/90	16/16
29	Oliver, Louis (S)	6-2/224	3-9-66	6	Florida	FA/94	*11/11
23	Sawyer, Corey (CB/PR)	5-11/171	10-4-71	R	Florida State	D4/94	—
22	Simmons, Marcello (CB)	6-1/180	8-8-71	2	Southern Methodist	D4/93	16/2
34	Vinson, Fernandus (S)	5-10/197	11-3-68	4	North Carolina State	D7/91	16/7
37	Wheeler, Leonard (CB/S)	5-11/189	1-15-69	3	Troy (Ala.) State	D3/92	16/2
31	Williams, Darryl (S)	6-0/191	1-1-70	3	Miami (Fla.)	D1/92	16/16
	SPECIALISTS						
11	Johnson, Lee (P/K)	6-2/200	11-27-61	10	Brigham Young	W-Cle/88	16/0
9	Pelfrey, Doug (K)	5-11/185	9-25-70	2	Kentucky	D8/93	15/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Andrew Beckett, DE; Troy Dickey, WR; Eric Drage, WR; Artis Ford, DT; Jeff Hill, WR; Kevin Jefferson, LB; Lance Johnson, S; Jey Phillips, CB; Terry Richardson, RB; Greg Truitt, S; Elbert Turner, WR; Ronald Williams, RB; Ray Woodside, G.
*Not with Bengals in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

CINCINNATI BENGALS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Dave Shula.

Assistant coaches: • Jim Anderson (running backs) • Ken Anderson (quarterbacks) • Marv Braden (special teams) • Bruce Coslet (offensive coordinator) • Bobby DePaul (defensive assistant) • Jim McNally (offensive line) • Joe Pascale (linebackers) • Larry Peccatiello (defensive coordinator) • Ron Meeks (defensive backs) • Joe Wessel (defensive line) • Richard Williamson (wide receivers) • Kim Wood (strength).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 3-13 (4th in AFC Central); 0-6 in division; 1-11 in conference; 3-5 at home; 0-8 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Shula's regular-season record: 8-24 in two seasons with Bengals.
Shula's postseason record: None.
Team record last five years: 28-52 (.350, ranks 25th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	14	27
Rushing offense	11	24
Passing offense	14	27
Scoring offense	14	28
Total defense	8	16
Rushing defense	13	27
Passing defense	1	2
Scoring defense	11	20
Takeaways	10	T20
Giveaways	2	3
Turnover differential	T6	T8
Sacks	13	27
Sacks allowed	14	28

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Dan Wilkinson	DT	Ohio State
2nd	Darnay Scott	WR	San Diego State
3rd	Jeff Cothran	FB	Ohio State
3rd	Steve Shine	LB	Northwestern
4th	Corey Sawyer	CB	Florida State
5th	Trent Pollard	T	Eastern Washington
6th	Kimo von Oelhoffen	DT	Boise State
6th	Jerry Reynolds	T	UNLV
7th	Ramondo Stallings	DE	San Diego State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	CLEVELAND	1:00
Sept.	11	at San Diego	1:00
Sept.	18	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Sept.	25	at Houston	3:00
Oct.	2	MIAMI	8:00
Oct.	9	Open date	
Oct.	16	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Oct.	23	at Cleveland	1:00
Oct.	30	DALLAS	1:00
Nov.	6	at Seattle	1:00
Nov.	13	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov.	20	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Nov.	27	at Denver	2:00
Dec.	4	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Dec.	11	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Dec.	18	at Arizona	2:00
Dec.	24	PHILADELPHIA (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at Cleveland	L	14-27
Sept.	12	INDIANAPOLIS	L	6-9
Sept.	19	at Pittsburgh	L	7-34
Sept.	26	SEATTLE	L	10-19
Oct.	3	Open date		
Oct.	10	at Kansas City	L	15-17
Oct.	17	CLEVELAND	L	17-28
Oct.	24	at Houston	L	12-28
Oct.	31	Open date		
Nov.	7	PITTSBURGH	L	16-24
Nov.	14	HOUSTON	L	3-38
Nov.	21	at N.Y. Jets	L	12-17
Nov.	28	L.A. RAIDERS	W	16-10
Dec.	5	at San Francisco	L	8-21
Dec.	12	at New England	L	2-7
Dec.	19	L.A. RAMS	W	15-3
Dec.	26	ATLANTA	W	21-17
Jan.	2	at New Orleans	L	13-20

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Riverfront Stadium (60,389, artificial) • Ticket information: 513-621-3550 • Flagship radio station: WLWA, 550 AM • Training site: Wilmington College, Wilmington, O.; 513-382-2588.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Dan Wilkinson started his college career at Ohio State as a 348-pound offensive lineman before being moved to defense?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Eric Ball	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mike Brim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Steve Broussard	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derrick Fenner	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
David Klingler	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Tim McGee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tony McGee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ostell Miles	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Louis Oliver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Doug Pelfrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	8	2	13	—	—
Carl Pickens	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Jeff Query	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Jay Schroeder	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Craig Thompson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Darryl Williams	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

AL MESSERSCHMIDT

With players like John Copeland, Cincinnati's defensive line may no longer be a sore point.

line in Peccatiello's 4-3 alignment. Peccatiello's Washington defenses perennially finished in the league's top 10 against the rush, and he likes to use stout, big men up front. That could portend good things for players like Mike Frier, George Hinkle and the versatile Ty Parten.

LINEBACKERS—This isn't a bad unit if starters Steve Tovar, James Francis and Ricardo McDonald stay healthy. McDonald went into camp with a reconstructed knee that is coming along well but has yet to take a hit.

The Bengals haven't had a true middle linebacker since the early '80s, but they like Tovar's intensity to play a position he played only one season at Ohio State. Francis, a former No. 1 pick, has shown flashes of brilliance in four years but not much consistency.

The backups range from rookie Steve Shine to veteran Santo Stephens, a career special-teams player.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—This is a strong spot, and with Wilkinson, Krumrie, Tovar and their two safeties, the Bengals feel they're as solid up the middle as anyone.

Free-agent acquisition Louis Oliver, a five-year starter in Miami, arrives in Cincinnati with a big-play reputation. He played free safety with the Dolphins but will play strong safety for the Bengals. Oliver, however, underwent surgery for a fractured bone in his foot, and his penchant for sometimes lining up in the wrong spot is troublesome. The incumbent free safety, Darryl Williams, would have made the Pro Bowl last season if he played anywhere but Cincinnati.

Fernandus Vinson and Leonard Wheeler are capable backups, but depth is thin at cornerback, where Mike Brim and Rod Jones will start. If fourth-round pick Corey Sawyer can overcome his lack of speed, he should be the third corner.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Their special teams won't kill the Bengals, but they won't win any games for them, either. Their longest kick return last season was only 45 yards, and they have no breakaway threats returning punts or kickoffs.

Lee Johnson is one of the league's most consistent punters, and place-kicker Doug Pelfrey is coming off a solid rookie year in which he converted 10 of 13 field-goal attempts of 40 yards or more. ◆

Modell hopes waiting days are over for Browns

By JEFF SCHUDEL
News-Herald

When soon-to-be-hired Bill Belichick said in a 1991 job interview that it would take five years of hard work for the Browns to bear fruit, Owner Art Modell grudgingly accepted the reality that his once-proud franchise had fallen into decay.

But that was before free agency. The license to buy players like showroom Cadillacs has changed the five-year plan to a four-year plan. Now Modell makes it clear that he expects the Browns to be a force in the playoffs—in 1994.

"This is the fourth year of the Belichick regime," Modell said. "I honestly feel this will be a turnaround year for the Cleveland Browns. By turnaround year, I'm expecting some very, very important things to happen. I can't make a prediction, but I feel very good about this team, about this staff, about the draft. I think we're going to make our move competitively this year."

Modell does not want to have to explain a fifth consecutive losing season—not after signing quarterback Vinny Testaverde, wide receiver Mark Carrier, guard Houston Hoover and cornerback Najee Mustafaa via free agency last year and tight end Walter Reeves, cornerback Don Griffin, running back Earnest Byner, quarterback Mark Rypien and tackle Mike Withycombe in 1994.

COACHING

Belichick shares Modell's optimism, because he has molded the Browns into the image he likes—big and fast. Each free agent, and each high draft choice he has made, fits both descriptions.

The most noteworthy change in the coaching staff is the fact that Belichick has an offensive coordinator—running-backs coach Steve Crosby—for the first time in his four season with the club. Crosby began calling plays midway through 1993, about the time Testaverde replaced Bernie Kosar at quarterback. The difference wasn't as dramatic as going from a full-house backfield to the run-and-shoot, but there were changes. Those changes, due as much to the switch in quarterbacks as to the play-calling, should continue to evolve.

Naming a coordinator will help the offense. The defense wasn't as lucky. Ends coach Jim Bates left to be defensive coordinator at Atlanta. Bates isn't irreplaceable, but he'll be missed. Rob Burnett and Anthony Pleasant emerged as stars under Bates, combining for 20 sacks last season.

PETE J. GROH

Vinny Testaverde can play-fake and roll out, and he still has a cannon attached to his right shoulder.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Testaverde has something he never had in his last three years in Tampa Bay—a front office and coaching staff that believe in him. And just how do the Browns spell belief? By canning (some in Cleveland perceived it as caning) Kosar last season and giving Testaverde a six-year, $24 million contract.

Testaverde threw 14 touchdown passes and nine interceptions in 1993—the first time in his seven-year career that the ratio has been favorable. Testaverde can play-fake and roll out, and he still has a cannon attached to his right shoulder. He is 100 percent after a right-shoulder separation last year.

Crosby calls Rypien a "clone" of Testaverde, saying the two can make the same plays, although Rypien is more of a drop-back passer and does not roll out as nimbly. Rypien is a solid backup, and Testaverde was assured by Belichick that there will be no training-camp battle.

RUNNING BACKS—There isn't a more dangerous weapon in the AFC Central than Eric Metcalf. Now all the parts are finally in place to exploit his greatness.

Metcalf is stronger than he was early in his career and just as fast. Testaverde can get him the ball one step deeper in the backfield than did Kosar, and one step is all Metcalf needs to make most defenders miss.

The offense will revolve around Metcalf, but he will not carry the ball 25 times per game. Only twice in the 48 games coached by Belichick has a back done that. If Metcalf touches the ball 18 to 20 times per game, either as a running back or a receiver, it will mean the Browns are in control.

Fullback Tommy Vardell has been disappointing since the Browns made him the ninth overall draft pick out of Stanford in 1992. Last year, he gained 3.8 yards per carry, almost a full yard less than Metcalf. Belichick says Vardell tries to be too perfect while looking for running room.

If Vardell doesn't step up, Byner will. The Browns signed him in early May to be a locker-room leader, but he also is only one season removed from rushing for 998 yards. A Metcalf/Byner starting backfield would not be a shocker.

RECEIVERS—One of the most important

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Browns have six defensive linemen who can start anywhere in the league. The offensive line, a weakness just two years ago, is solid for the first time in eight years. Eric Metcalf can score from anywhere on the field on any play.

Weaknesses: Overall team speed was lacking last season, and although the Browns are improved on both sides of the ball, the speed still might not be enough to challenge the top teams. The Browns need a big year from place-kicker Matt Stover. He has not been reliable outside the 35-yard line.

Keys to success: Young outside linebackers Mike Caldwell and Travis Hill have to meet the coaches' expectations or there will be a huge window in the defense. They can provide some of that team speed that was lacking. Offensive coordinator Steve Crosby must come up with game plans that won't overburden quarterback Vinny Testaverde. The Browns will find out whether Testaverde's improved interception ratio was a result of escaping Tampa Bay or a one-year fling. A quality punter is needed to replace Brian Hansen, who left for the Jets as a free agent.

That's a fact: The Browns are 3-20 on artificial turf since 1990, but that includes a 1-11 record under the immobile Bernie Kosar. They will play six of eight road games on turf in '94.

Coach Bill Belichick says: "The key for us this year is staying healthy. The biggest injuries for us the last two years have been at quarterback. We have good depth at quarterback, but two injuries on two plays and you're in trouble."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Carrier	McCardell	Rowe
LT	T. Jones	Arvie	Hewitt
LG	Hoover	W. Williams	
C	Everitt	W. Williams	
RG	Dahl	G. Williams	
RT	Arvie	G. Williams	
TE	Reeves	Kinchen	McLemore
WR	Jackson	Alexander	Smith
QB	Testaverde	Rypien	Goebel
FB	Vardell	Byner	Wolfley
RB	Metcalf	Byner	Hoard

DEFENSE

LE	Burnett	B. Johnson	Footman
LT	J. Jones	Bandison	B. Johnson
RT	Perry	B. Johnson	Bandison
RE	Pleasant	Footman	
LOLB	Hill	Matthews	Stams
MLB	P. Johnson	Brown	Sutter
ROLB	Caldwell	Matthews	McKenzie
LCB	Griffin	Frank	Hairston
RCB	Langham	Griffin	Booth
SS	Moore	Speer	Tremble
FS	Turner	Riddick	

SPECIALISTS

K	Stover	KR	Alexander
P	Tupa	PR	Metcalf

CLEVELAND BROWNS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Bill Belichick.

Assistant coaches: • Ernie Adams (special assignment) • Jacob Burney (defensive line) • Steve Crosby (offensive coordinator) • Rod Dowhower (quarterbacks) • Kirk Ferentz (offensive line) • Scott O'Brien (special teams) • Nick Saban (defensive coordinator) • Mike Sheppard (receivers) • Jerry Simmons (strength and conditioning) • Kevin Spencer (offensive assistant) • Rick Venturi (defensive backfield) • Woody Widenhofer (linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 7-9 (3rd in AFC Central); 3-3 in division; 4-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 3-5 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Belichick's regular-season record: 20-28 in three seasons with Browns.
Belichick's postseason record: None.
Team record last five years: 32-47-1 (.406, ranks 19th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	11	20
Rushing offense	8	17
Passing offense	12	19
Scoring offense	9	15
Total defense	5	12
Rushing defense	7	12
Passing defense	5	13
Scoring defense	9	17
Takeaways	T12	T24
Giveaways	13	T25
Turnover differential	T13	T25
Sacks	2	3
Sacks allowed	10	22

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Antonio Langham	CB	Alabama
1st	Derrick Alexander	WR	Michigan
3rd	Romeo Bandison	DT	Oregon
5th	Issac Booth	CB	California
6th	Robert Strait	RB	Baylor
7th	Andre Hewitt	T	Clemson

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Cincinnati	1:00
Sept.	11	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Sept.	18	ARIZONA	1:00
Sept.	25	at Indianapolis	12:00
Oct.	2	N.Y. JETS	1:00
Oct.	9	Open date	
Oct.	13	at Houston (Thur.)	8:00
Oct.	23	CINCINNATI	1:00
Oct.	30	at Denver	2:00
Nov.	6	NEW ENGLAND	1:00
Nov.	13	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov.	20	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov.	27	HOUSTON	1:00
Dec.	4	N.Y. GIANTS	4:00
Dec.	10	at Dallas (Sat.)	3:00
Dec.	18	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec.	24	SEATTLE (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	CINCINNATI	W	27-14
Sept.	13	SAN FRANCISCO	W	23-13
Sept.	19	at L.A. Raiders	W	19-16
Sept.	26	at Indianapolis	L	10-23
Oct.	3	Open date		
Oct.	10	MIAMI	L	14-24
Oct.	17	at Cincinnati	W	28-17
Oct.	24	PITTSBURGH	W	28-23
Oct.	31	Open date		
Nov.	7	DENVER	L	14-29
Nov.	14	at Seattle	L	5-22
Nov.	21	HOUSTON	L	20-27
Nov.	28	at Atlanta	L	14-17
Dec.	5	NEW ORLEANS	W	17-13
Dec.	12	at Houston	L	17-19
Dec.	19	NEW ENGLAND	L	17-20
Dec.	26	at L.A. Rams	W	42-14
Jan.	2	at Pittsburgh	L	9-16

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Cleveland Stadium (78,512, grass) • Ticket information: 216-696-3800 • Flagship radio stations: WDOK, 102.1 FM; WKNR, 1220 AM • Training site: Berea Complex, Berea, O.; 216-891-5000.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that free-agent signees Mark Rypien, Don Griffin and Earnest Byner have five Super Bowl rings collectively?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Earnest Byner	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mark Carrier	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	5
Donald Frank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Michael Jackson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	8
James Jones	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brian Kinchen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Kevin Mack	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Keenan McCardell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Eric Metcalf	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	5
Stevon Moore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Najee Mustafaa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Todd Philcox	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Walter Reeves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mark Rypien	1	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Matt Stover	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	6	1	36	—	—
Vinny Testaverde	5	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Lawyer Tillman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tommy Vardell	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Ron Wolfley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

off-season acquisitions was that of Reeves. He caught only nine passes for the Cardinals last season. If he catches only three more for the Browns, he'll be valuable as the blocking tight end they haven't had since Ron Middleton left for Washington in Plan B in 1989. The Browns need a blocking tight end, because they ranked 27th last season on third-down conversions. Belichick can't play his ball-control offense without making third downs, and even with wide receiver improved, this still is not a quick-strike offense.

One of the best-kept secrets in the AFC the last two years has been Michael Jackson. He has 15 touchdown catches in that time, more than anyone in the conference except Houston's Haywood Jeffires, who also had 15. Jackson, Carrier, Keenan McCardell and rookie Derrick Alexander give the Browns their best foursome since Reggie Langhorne, Webster Slaughter, Brian Brennan and Ozzie Newsome helped them to the playoffs from 1986-89.

LINEMEN—Once a glaring weakness, this is now a strength. The only position on the line where Belichick hasn't reloaded is left tackle. Tony Jones, a deserving Pro Bowler who gets overlooked because the Browns have gone 3-13, 6-10, 7-9 and 7-9 in the '90s, allowed only three sacks all of 1993.

After Jones, the Browns will line up Hoover at left guard and Steve Everitt at center. Those three positions were the same last year, and one season together should make that part of the line better.

If the other two positions remain unchanged, Bob Dahl will start at right guard and Gene Williams at right tackle, but second-year tackle Herman Arvie will push Williams. If he wins the job, Williams, a natural guard, could be moved inside, making Dahl a valuable backup.

The Browns had uncertainty on the line in training camp last year when Ed King flopped at right tackle and Everitt eventually beat out Jay Hilgenberg at center. Ideally, Belichick would like to find his starting five by the first preseason game and stay with them. At the same time, he doesn't want to jump to conclusions, so a little experimenting in August might be necessary.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Browns set a team record with 48 sacks in 1992 and then tied it last season. But hold on. Even better days might be ahead because an improved secondary should force the quarterback to hold the ball longer.

It was a turnaround year for tackle Michael Dean Perry, who became one of Belichick's biggest supporters. That attitude could be more important than Perry's 10 sacks, because the other players look to him as a leader.

Depth is a strength. James Jones will start at tackle with Perry in the 4-3 defense. Jones, Perry, and Bill Johnson will rotate. The theory: Have a fresh pass rusher in the fourth quarter when the opposing guard is worn down. The same theory will put second-year player Dan Footman in the rotation at end with Burnett and Pleasant.

LINEBACKERS—And now we come to the biggest question mark. The Browns project second-year players Mike Caldwell and Travis Hill as starters outside. Hill, on injured

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

There isn't a more dangerous weapon in the AFC Central than Eric Metcalf.

reserve all last year, is a virtual rookie. If they're quick learners over the summer, the Browns could have a devastating front seven. If they're still green in October, defensive coordinator Nick Saban will need a coverup that would make the White House proud.

Middle linebacker Mike Johnson signed with Detroit as a free agent. He led the team in tackles in 1993, the sixth time he had done that in eight years. The middle linebacker should lead in tackles in a 4-3; Johnson was a leader, and that's where he'll be missed most. Pepper Johnson, expected to re-sign as a free agent, could supply the tackles and leadership.

Depth also could be a problem. Richard Brown played well in 1991 while Mike Johnson mended from a broken foot, but he injured his knee in 1992 and missed all of 1993 on injured reserve. Ed Sutter, another backup inside, is unproven.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Browns evaluated 1993 and came to the conclusion they had to do something about the secondary. So they traded a 1995 sixth-round draft pick to San Diego for cornerback Donald Frank; signed former 49er cornerback Griffin as a free agent; and drafted Alabama cornerback Antonio Langham in the first round. How quickly the newcomers mesh with safeties Eric Turner and Stevon Moore will have a huge bearing on the chances of regaining the AFC Central title.

Langham should be able to make the transition to the NFL from the pressure of the Southeastern Conference. One reason Belichick likes to draft players from big schools is because those players usually can advance more quickly.

Langham gives the Browns something else—a takeaway threat. The Browns had only 22 takeaways last season, 11 fewer than in Belichick's first season. Langham had seven interceptions as a senior and 19 during his college career.

1994 CLEVELAND BROWNS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
8	Goebel, Brad	6-3/198	10-13-67	4	Baylor	FA/93	0/0
17	Philcox, Todd	6-4/225	9-25-66	5	Syracuse	PlanB/91	5/4
	Rypien, Mark	6-4/234	10-2-62	8	Washington State	FA/94	*12/10
12	Testaverde, Vinny	6-5/215	11-13-63	8	Miami (Fla.)	FA/93	10/6
	RUNNING BACKS						
	Byner, Earnest (FB)	5-10/218	9-15-62	11	East Carolina	FA/94	*16/3
33	Hoard, Leroy	5-11/225	5-5-68	5	Michigan	D2/90	16/7
34	Mack, Kevin (FB)	6-0/225	8-9-62	9	Clemson	D1/84	4/0
21	Metcalf, Eric (PR)	5-10/190	1-23-68	6	Texas	D1/89	16/9
35	Strait, Robert	6-1/235	11-14-69	R	Baylor	D6/94	—
44	Vardell, Tommy (FB)	6-2/230	2-20-69	3	Stanford	D1/92	16/12
26	Wolfley, Ron (FB)	6-0/220	10-14-62	10	West Virginia	PlanB/92	16/5
	RECEIVERS						
89	Alexander, Derrick (KR)	6-2/195	11-6-71	R	Michigan	D1/94	—
83	Carrier, Mark	6-0/185	10-28-65	8	Nicholls State	FA/93	16/16
81	Jackson, Michael	6-4/195	4-12-69	4	Southern Mississippi	D6/91	15/11
47	Jones, David (TE)	6-3/255	11-9-68	3	Delaware State	FA/94	0/0
88	Kinchen, Brian (TE)	6-2/240	8-6-65	7	Louisiana State	FA/91	16/15
87	McCardell, Keenan	6-1/175	1-6-70	3	UNLV	FA/93	6/3
80	McLemore, Tom (TE)	6-5/250	3-14-70	3	Southern (La.)	W-Det/93	4/0
49	Reeves, Walter (TE)	6-4/270	12-15-65	6	Auburn	FA/94	*16/15
86	Rowe, Patrick	6-1/195	2-17-69	3	San Diego State	D2/92	5/0
84	Smith, Rico	6-0/185	1-14-69	3	Colorado	D6/92	10/1
85	Tillman, Lawyer	6-5/230	5-20-66	6	Auburn	D2/89	7/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
73	Arvie, Herman (T)	6-4/305	10-12-70	2	Grambling State	D5/93	16/0
72	Dahl, Bob (G)	6-5/300	11-5-68	3	Notre Dame	FA/92	16/16
61	Everitt, Steve (C)	6-5/290	8-21-70	2	Michigan	D1/93	16/16
70	Hewitt, Andre (T)	6-6/285	4-26-71	R	Clemson	D7/94	—
64	Hoover, Houston (G)	6-2/300	2-6-65	7	Jackson State	FA/93	16/16
66	Jones, Tony (T)	6-5/295	5-24-66	7	Western Carolina	FA/88	16/16
68	King, Ed (T/G)	6-4/300	12-3-69	4	Auburn	D2/91	6/2
62	Williams, Gene (T/G)	6-2/305	10-14-68	4	Iowa State	T-Mia/93	16/14
63	Williams, Wally (C/G)	6-2/300	2-19-71	2	Florida A&M	FA/93	2/0
60	Withycombe, Mike (G/T)	6-5/300	11-18-64	7	Fresno State	FA/94	*0/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
93	Ball, Jerry (T)	6-1/315	12-15-64	8	Southern Methodist	T-Det/93	16/7
97	Bandison, Romeo (T)	6-4/290	2-12-71	R	Oregon	D3/94	—
90	Burnett, Rob (E)	6-4/280	8-27-67	5	Syracuse	D5/90	16/16
78	Footman, Dan (E)	6-5/290	1-13-69	2	Florida State	D2/93	8/0
94	Johnson, Bill (E/T)	6-4/290	12-9-68	3	Michigan State	D3/92	10/0
96	Jones, James (T)	6-2/290	2-6-69	4	Northern Iowa	D3/91	16/12
92	Perry, Michael Dean (T)	6-1/285	8-27-65	7	Clemson	D2/88	16/13
98	Pleasant, Anthony (E)	6-5/280	1-27-67	5	Tennessee State	D3/90	16/13
75	Sagapolutele, Pio	6-6/297	11-28-69	4	San Diego State	D4/91	8/0
	LINEBACKERS						
52	Brown, Richard	6-3/240	9-21-65	7	San Diego State	PlanB/91	0/0
56	Caldwell, Mike	6-2/235	8-31-71	2	Middle Tennessee State	D3/93	15/1
	Derby, John	6-0/232	3-24-68	1	Iowa	FA/94	*0/0
51	Dixon, Gerald	6-3/250	6-20-69	3	South Carolina	D3/92	11/0
55	Hill, Travis	6-2/240	10-3-69	1	Nebraska	D7/93	0/0
53	Johnson, Pepper	6-3/248	6-29-64	9	Ohio State	W-Gia/93	16/11
57	Matthews, Clay	6-2/245	3-15-56	17	Southern California	D1/78	16/15
99	McKenzie, Rich	6-2/240	4-15-71	1	Penn State	D6/93	0/0
50	Stams, Frank	6-2/230	7-17-65	6	Notre Dame	T-Ram/92	14/0
54	Sutter, Eddie	6-3/235	10-3-69	2	Northwestern	W-NE/93	15/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
36	Booth, Isaac (CB)	6-2/183	5-23-71	R	California	D5/94	—
37	Frank, Donald (CB)	6-0/192	10-24-65	5	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	T-SD/94	*16/16
28	Griffin, Don (CB)	6-0/176	3-17-64	9	Middle Tennessee State	FA/94	*12/12
31	Hairston, Stacey (CB)	5-9/180	8-16-67	2	Ohio Northern	FA/93	16/0
41	Jacobs, Tim (CB)	5-10/185	4-5-70	2	Delaware	FA/93	2/0
22	Jones, Selwyn (CB)	6-0/185	5-13-70	3	Colorado State	D7/92	11/2
38	Langham, Antonio (CB)	6-0/180	7-31-72	R	Alabama	D1/94	—
27	Moore, Stevon (S)	5-11/210	2-9-67	6	Mississippi	PlanB/92	16/16
48	Mustafaa, Najee (CB)	6-1/190	6-20-64	8	Georgia Tech	FA/93	14/14
42	Riddick, Louis (S)	6-2/215	3-15-69	3	Pittsburgh	FA/93	15/0
43	Speer, Del (S)	6-0/200	2-1-70	2	Florida	FA/93	16/2
24	Taylor, Terry (CB)	5-10/185	7-18-61	10	Southern Illinois	PlanB/92	10/7
29	Turner, Eric (S)	6-1/207	9-20-68	4	UCLA	D1/91	16/16
	SPECIALISTS						
15	Kalal, Tim (P)	6-3/205	9-13-67	1	Miami (Fla.)	FA/94	0/0
3	Stover, Matt (K)	5-11/178	1-27-68	5	Louisiana Tech	PlanB/91	16/0
7	Tupa, Tom (P)	6-4/230	2-6-66	6	Ohio State	FA/94	0/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Greg Briggs, S; Orlando Brown, OL; Kerry Ferrell, WR; Frank Hartley, TE; Rod Milstead, G.
*Not with Browns in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Metcalf is lethal as a punt returner. Matt Stover has killed the Browns' chances of winning when the game hinges on one of his long-range field goals.

The biggest project has been finding a punter to replace Brian Hansen, who left through free agency to sign with the Jets. Tom Tupa, a six-year veteran who doubles as an emergency quarterback, had the lead heading into training camp, but that could change. Tupa has been around since 1988 and has only six NFL punts.

A new facet of special teams this year is the two-point conversion. Vardell, who earned the nickname "Touchdown Tommy" at Stanford, would be a natural to follow the lead block of Reeves from the 2-yard line, but Belichick isn't likely to try unless he's trying to tie the score at the end. ◆

Oilers' seven-year playoff ride may be finished

By JOHN McCLAIN
Houston Chronicle

After seven consecutive years of playoff frustration, the Houston Oilers might be fortunate just to reach the postseason in 1994.

Houston overcame many obstacles last season—Babygate, Jeff Alm's suicide and the Buddy Ryan-Kevin Gilbride feud, to name just a few—to win its last 11 games and finish atop the AFC Central with a 12-4 mark. Then, they proceeded to choke (again) in the playoffs. Houston blew a 10-point halftime lead at home before losing to Kansas City, 28-20, in an AFC divisional playoff game.

This season, thanks to salary-cap restrictions and general dissatisfaction, the Oilers must operate without quarterback Warren Moon, defensive ends Sean Jones and William Fuller, punter Greg Montgomery and Ryan, among others. That means Houston could be headed toward mediocrity. If that happens, Coach Jack Pardee, in the last year of a five-year contract, probably will lose his job.

New General Manager Floyd Reese, previously the team's assistant G.M., has tried to make Pardee's job easier. Reese's first assignment was to steer the Oilers through the choppy waters of free agency and the salary cap.

By stockpiling draft choices and using free agency judiciously, Reese has avoided the need to completely overhaul Houston's roster. Regardless, there's a good chance the Oilers could miss the playoffs for the first time since they finished 5-11 in 1986.

COACHING

Pardee promoted Gilbride from offensive coordinator to assistant head coach/offense. Gilbride will continue to call the plays, but former Minnesota assistant Dick Coury was hired as offensive coordinator to help incorporate a tight end, a position that Owner Bud Adams and Reese wanted to see implemented into the offense.

Jeff Fisher, San Francisco's defensive backs coach the last two seasons, was hired as defensive coordinator to replace Ryan, now the Cardinals' head coach. Fisher played defensive back for Ryan in Chicago (1981-84) and served as his defensive coordinator in Philadelphia (1989-90). Fisher has retained Ryan's blitzing system and will rely heavily on the 46 defense that Ryan popularized.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Warren Moon's 10-year run as Houston's starting quarterback is finished. Cody Carlson, who has backed up Moon the last seven years and has a career 10-4 record as a starter, is the new No. 1 man. Carlson isn't as talented as Moon, who signed with Minnesota in the off-season, but he has proven capable of running the offense.

The Oilers' fate may depend on how well Carlson responds to being the top man. By adding a tight end and H-back to the offense on some downs, the coaches can give Carlson maximum protection should the line falter, something the staff was unable to do for Moon in the pure run-and-shoot offense. The main question concerning Carlson is his durability. The coaches worry that at 6-foot-3, 202 pounds, he might have problems staying healthy.

JOE STAHL

Cody Carlson isn't as talented as Warren Moon, who signed with Minnesota, but he has proven capable of running the offense.

Sean Salisbury, a part-time starter at Minnesota the last two seasons, was signed to serve as the backup. Fan favorite Bucky Richardson returns as the third quarterback.

RUNNING BACKS—Gary Brown will be the starter in Houston's one-back set. He got his chance to start after Lorenzo White injured his hamstring in the eighth game of last season. Brown, who had just 110 yards rushing at midseason, finished the campaign with 1,002.

White, an unrestricted free agent, spent the off-season trying to sign with another team. If he leaves, Spencer Tillman will be the only reserve with experience. Because of his size, blocking ability and hands, Sean Jackson, a fourth-round draft pick from Florida State, figures to be the No. 2 back.

RECEIVERS—What used to be one of the National Football League's most talented and productive units slumped last season. Injuries and age were the biggest culprits. Ernest Givins and Haywood Jeffires, who both turn 30 this season, stayed healthy, but Webster Slaughter (knee) and Curtis Duncan (foot) did not.

As usual, Givins was consistent and exciting last season, when he made 68 catches. Look for more of the same in 1994. Jeffires

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Oilers are an experienced, playoff-tested team. Gary Brown should be one of the best runners in the league. The offensive line is good, when healthy. The defense still has a lot of talent, and the special teams will be among the league's best if Lee Gissendaner delivers as a return man.

Weaknesses: The Oilers have a bad attitude after blowing another playoff game and losing such key players as Warren Moon, Sean Jones, William Fuller and Greg Montgomery because of the salary cap. Quarterback Cody Carlson must prove he can play well on a full-time basis. The loss of defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan has to hurt, and the defensive line won't be as strong without Jones and Fuller.

Keys to success: Carlson must play the way the coaches think he can, Webster Slaughter must recover from knee surgery, guard Mike Munchak must play with bad knees, and ends Lee Williams and Henry Ford must provide a pass rush.

That's a fact: The Oilers have been to the playoffs a league-high seven consecutive years, but they have failed to advance beyond the second round on each occasion.

Coach Jack Pardee says: "A lot of teams struggled trying to adjust to the salary cap in the off-season. We lost some key players, but we brought in some good ones, too. If we stay healthy and have some young guys develop and produce, we should be in good shape."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Jeffires	R. Brown	Seabron
WR	Wellman	Coleman	
LT	Hopkins	Donnalley	Thomas
LG	Munchak	Neal	
C	Norgard	Flannery	
RG	Matthews	Dawson	
RT	D. Williams	Reid	Truitt
WR	Givins	Gissendaner	
WR	Slaughter	Duncan	Hannah
QB	Carlson	Salisbury	Richardson
RB	G. Brown	Se. Jackson	Tillman

DEFENSE

LE	L. Williams	Davidson	
LT	Childress	Nunley	
RT	Montgomery	Roberts	
RE	Ford	McCants	
SLB	Robinson	Lathon	
MLB	Smith	Barrow	Wortham
WLB	Bowden	Kozak	Hall
LCB	Dishman	T. Brown	Davis
RCB	D. Lewis	St. Jackson	Martin
SS	McDowell	Bishop	Aldridge
FS	Robertson	Orlando	Dumas

SPECIALISTS

K	Del Greco	KR	Gissendaner
P	Camarillo	PR	Gissendaner

Hannah
Coleman

made 66 receptions, including a team-high six TD grabs, in '93.

Slaughter, who turns 30 in October, led the team with 77 catches, but he is coming off major knee surgery. He is supposed to be at full speed by the start of the season, but there still is concern about his speed, quickness and cutting ability. The 29-year-old Duncan, who made 41 catches last year, could have trouble making the team.

Gary Wellman came off the bench and impressed down the stretch, finishing with 31 catches. But at 5-9, he might not be able to withstand the punishment as a starter over a full season. Travis Hannah is the club's fastest receiver, but he showed nothing as a rookie last season. Malcolm Seabron, a third-round draft choice from Fresno State, needs to contribute immediately.

Former Ram Pat Carter, a free-agent signee, and Rod Lewis, a fifth-round draft pick from Arizona, will fill the tight-end slot when the Oilers opt to use one. Each is noted more for blocking than receiving.

LINEMEN—This unit has plenty of talent and depth, but staying healthy was a problem in 1993.

Last season, left guard Mike Munchak went to the Pro Bowl for a team-record ninth time. He was expected to retire because of chronic knee problems, but he wants to play a 13th season. The coaches welcome him, but he must pass a physical.

Center Bruce Matthews has played in six consecutive Pro Bowls, but the 11-year veteran might be moved to right guard. If that happens, Doug Dawson, who underwent back surgery in the off-season, will be out of a starting job.

David Williams is one of the best right tackles in the league. Left tackle Brad Hopkins, Houston's first-round pick in 1993, played well until the end of the season, when he was dominated by quick ends.

Kevin Donnalley, who is competing for a starting job at guard and tackle after an impressive season as a reserve, signed a four-year, $4.1 million offer sheet with the Rams, but the Oilers matched it. They also matched an offer Atlanta made to Erik Norgard, who can play center and guard.

John Flannery, who plays guard and center, missed last season following knee surgery, but he's 100 percent and will attempt to win a starting job. The only rookie of note is tackle Jim Reid, a fifth-round draft pick who experienced knee problems at Virginia.

1994 HOUSTON OILERS ROSTER

No.	QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
14	Carlson, Cody	6-3/202	11-5-63	8	Baylor	D3/87	8/2
7	Richardson, Bucky	6-1/228	2-7-69	3	Texas A&M	D8/92	2/0
12	Salisbury, Sean	6-5/217	3-9-63	6	Southern California	FA/94	*11/4
	RUNNING BACKS						
33	Brown, Gary	5-11/233	7-1-69	4	Penn State	D8/91	16/8
	Jackson, Sean	6-1/222	2-6-71	R	Florida State	D4/94	—
47	Maston, Le'Shai	6-1/215	10-7-70	2	Baylor	FA/93	10/0
32	Tillman, Spencer	5-11/206	4-21-64	8	Oklahoma	PlanB/92	15/0
44	White, Lorenzo	5-11/222	4-12-66	7	Michigan State	D1/88	8/8
	RECEIVERS						
17	Brown, Reggie	6-1/195	5-5-70	2	Alabama State	FA/93	4/0
46	Carter, Pat (TE)	6-4/258	8-1-66	8	Florida State	FA/94	*11/10
87	Coleman, Pat (PR)	5-7/176	4-8-67	4	Mississippi	FA/91	13/1
80	Duncan, Curtis	5-11/184	1-26-65	8	Northwestern	D10/87	12/12
	Gissendaner, Lee (KR/PR)	5-9/175	10-25-71	R	Northwestern	D6/94	—
81	Givins, Ernest	5-9/178	9-3-64	9	Louisville	D2/85	16/16
82	Hannah, Travis (KR)	5-7/161	1-31-70	2	Southern California	D4/93	12/0
84	Jeffires, Haywood	6-2/201	12-12-64	8	North Carolina State	D1/87	16/16
	Lewis, Rod (TE)	6-5/254	6-9-71	R	Arizona	D5/94	—
48	Mills, John Henry (TE)	6-0/222	10-31-69	2	Wake Forest	D5/93	16/0
	Seabron, Malcolm	6-0/194	12-29-72	R	Fresno State	D3/94	—
89	Slaughter, Webster	6-1/175	10-19-64	9	San Diego State	FA/92	14/14
88	Wellman, Gary	5-9/173	8-9-67	3	Southern California	D5/91	11/3
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
66	Dawson, Doug (G)	6-3/288	12-27-61	8	Texas	FA/90	16/16
77	Donnalley, Kevin (T)	6-5/305	6-10-68	4	North Carolina	D3/91	16/6
55	Flannery, John (G/C)	6-3/304	1-13-69	4	Syracuse	D2/91	0/0
72	Hopkins, Brad (T)	6-3/306	9-5-70	2	Illinois	D1/93	16/11
74	Matthews, Bruce (C/G)	6-5/298	8-8-61	12	Southern California	D1/83	16/16
63	Munchak, Mike (G)	6-3/284	3-5-60	13	Penn State	D1/82	13/12
64	Norgard, Erik (C/G)	6-1/282	11-4-65	5	Colorado	FA/90	16/4
	Reid, Jim (T)	6-6/3.06	2-13-71	R	Virginia	D5/94	—
70	Thomas, Stan (T)	6-5/295	10-28-68	4	Texas	FA/93	14/0
73	Williams, David (T)	6-5/292	6-21-66	6	Florida	D1/89	15/15
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
79	Childress, Ray (T)	6-6/272	10-20-62	10	Texas A&M	D1/85	16/16
	Davidson, Kenny (E)	6-5/275	8-17-67	5	Louisiana State	FA/94	*16/9
92	Ford, Henry (E)	6-3/284	10-30-71	R	Arkansas	D1/94	—
78	McCants, Keith (E)	6-3/265	4-19-68	5	Alabama	FA/93	13/0
94	Montgomery, Glenn (T)	6-0/282	3-31-67	6	Houston	D5/89	16/11
93	Nunley, Jeremy (T/E)	6-5/278	9-19-71	R	Alabama	D2/94	—
68	Roberts, Tim (T)	6-6/318	4-14-69	3	Southern Mississippi	D5/92	6/0
71	Teeter, Mike (E)	6-2/260	10-4-67	3	Michigan	FA/93	14/0
97	Williams, Lee (E)	6-6/275	10-15-62	11	Bethune-Cookman	T-SD/91	14/5
	LINEBACKERS						
51	Barrow, Micheal	6-1/236	4-19-70	2	Miami (Fla.)	D2/93	16/0
59	Bowden, Joe	5-11/230	2-25-70	3	Oklahoma	D5/92	16/6
	Hall, Lemanski	6-0/229	11-24-70	R	Alabama	D7/94	—
56	Kozak, Scott	6-3/222	11-28-65	6	Oregon	D2/89	16/0
57	Lathon, Lamar	6-3/252	12-23-67	5	Houston	D1/90	13/1
50	Robinson, Eddie	6-1/245	4-13-70	3	Alabama State	D2/92	16/15
54	Smith, Al	6-1/244	11-26-64	8	Utah State	D6/87	16/16
	Wortham, Barron	5-11/244	11-1-69	R	Texas-El Paso	D6/94	—
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
36	Aldridge, Melvin (S)	6-2/195	7-22-70	2	Murray State	FA/93	1/0
23	Bishop, Blaine (S/CB)	5-8/197	7-24-70	2	Ball State	D8/93	16/2
22	Brown, Tony (CB)	5-9/183	5-15-70	3	Fresno State	D5/92	16/0
	Davis, Mike (CB)	6-1/192	1-14-72	R	Cincinnati	D4/94	—
28	Dishman, Cris (CB)	6-0/188	8-13-65	7	Purdue	D5/88	16/16
38	Dumas, Mike (S)	5-11/181	3-18-69	4	Indiana	D2/91	0/0
27	Hoage, Terry (S)	6-2/201	4-11-62	11	Georgia	FA/93	7/0
24	Jackson, Steve (CB)	5-8/182	4-8-69	4	Purdue	D3/91	16/12
29	Lewis, Darryll (CB)	5-9/183	12-16-68	4	Arizona	D2/91	4/4
25	McDowell, Bubba (S)	6-1/198	11-4-66	6	Miami, Fla.	D3/89	14/14
26	Orlando, Bo (S)	5-10/180	4-3-66	5	West Virginia	FA/90	16/3
31	Robertson, Marcus (S)	5-11/197	10-2-69	4	Iowa State	D4/91	13/13
	SPECIALISTS						
22	Camarillo, Rich (P)	5-11/200	11-29-59	14	Washington	FA/94	16/0
3	Del Greco, Al (K)	5-10/202	3-2-62	11	Auburn	FA/91	16/0

*Not with Oilers in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This area used to be the strength of the defense, but the Oilers suffered a severe blow when Jones (who had a team-high 13 sacks in '93) and Fuller (10) signed with Green Bay and Philadelphia, respectively.

Lee Williams, who was slowed by a knee injury last season, will replace Fuller at left end. This marks the first time Williams will be able to play his natural position since coming to the Oilers from San Diego in 1991. He'll be backed up by free-agent signee Kenny Davidson, who played with Pittsburgh the last four seasons.

Henry Ford, Houston's first-round pick in last April's draft, has been handed Jones' job at right end. The Arkansas product, who paced the Southeastern Conference in sacks (14) last season, must generate a pass rush. Keith McCants provides depth.

The strength up front is at tackle, where Ray Childress is a five-time Pro Bowl selection and Glenn Montgomery is a budding star who collapses the pocket with quickness and strength.

Jeremy Nunley, a second-round selection from Alabama in 1994, is expected to back up at tackle and end. Veteran Tim Roberts returns as another reserve.

LINEBACKERS—Outside linebackers Eddie Robinson and Joe Bowden should flank inside linebacker Al Smith. Robinson is a steady player who doesn't make mistakes, but he needs to make more big plays. Bowden blossomed last year and actually played better than Wilber Marshall, who missed six games due to injuries and wasn't invited to training camp.

Continued

HOUSTON OILERS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Jack Pardee.
Assistant coaches:
• Charlie Baggett (receivers) • Tom Bettis (defensive backs) • Frank Bush (quality control) • Dick Coury (offensive coordinator) • Jeff Fisher (defensive coordinator) • Kevin Gilbride (assistant head coach/offense) • Frank Novak (special teams) • Jim Stanley (defensive line) • Steve Watterson (strength and rehabilitation) • Gregg Williams (linebackers) • Bob Young (offensive line).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 12-4 (1st in AFC Central); 6-0 in division; 10-2 in conference; 7-1 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: Lost to Chiefs, 28-20, in AFC divisional playoff game.
Pardee's regular-season record: 42-22 in four seasons with Oilers; 86-68 overall in 10 NFL seasons with Oilers, Bears and Redskins.
Pardee's postseason record: 1-4 in four playoffs with Oilers; 1-5 overall in five playoffs with Oilers and Bears.
Team record last five years: 51-29 (.638, ranks 3rd in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	2	3
Rushing offense	6	12
Passing offense	2	3
Scoring offense	2	4
Total defense	7	14
Rushing defense	1	1
Passing defense	10	23
Scoring defense	1	4
Takeaways	2	2
Giveaways	14	28
Turnover differential	T9	T18
Sacks	1	1
Sacks allowed	9	21

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Henry Ford	DE	Arkansas
2nd	Jeremy Nunley	DE	Alabama
3rd	Malcolm Seabron	WR	Fresno State
4th	Mike Davis	CB	Cincinnati
4th	Sean Jackson	RB	Florida State
5th	Rod Lewis	TE	Arizona
5th	Jim Reid	T	Virginia
6th	Lee Gissendaner	WR	Northwestern
6th	Barron Wortham	LB	Texas-El Paso
7th	Lemanski Hall	LB	Alabama

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Indianapolis	12:00
Sept.	11	at Dallas	3:00
Sept.	18	BUFFALO	12:00
Sept.	25	CINCINNATI	3:00
Oct.	3	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	9:00
Oct.	9	Open date	
Oct.	13	CLEVELAND (Thur.)	8:00
Oct.	24	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	9:00
Oct.	30	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Nov.	6	PITTSBURGH	12:00
Nov.	13	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov.	21	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	8:00
Nov.	27	at Cleveland	1:00
Dec.	4	ARIZONA	3:00
Dec.	11	SEATTLE	3:00
Dec.	18	at Kansas City	3:00
Dec.	24	N.Y. JETS (Sat.)	3:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at New Orleans	L	21-33
Sept.	12	KANSAS CITY	W	30-0
Sept.	19	at San Diego	L	17-18
Sept.	26	L.A. RAMS	L	13-28
Oct.	3	Open date		
Oct.	11	at Buffalo	L	7-35
Oct.	17	at New England	W	28-14
Oct.	24	CINCINNATI	W	28-12
Oct.	31	Open date		
Nov.	7	SEATTLE	W	24-14
Nov.	14	at Cincinnati	W	38-3
Nov.	21	at Cleveland	W	27-20
Nov.	28	PITTSBURGH	W	23-3
Dec.	5	ATLANTA	W	33-17
Dec.	12	CLEVELAND	W	19-17
Dec.	19	at Pittsburgh	W	26-17
Dec.	25	at San Francisco	W	10-7
Jan.	2	N.Y. JETS	W	24-0

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Astrodome (59,905, artificial) • Ticket information: 713-797-1000 • Flagship radio station: KTRH, 740 AM • Training site: Trinity University, San Antonio, Tex.; 713-797-9111.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Gary Brown	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Cody Carlson	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pat Carter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ray Childress	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kenny Davidson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Al Del Greco	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	4	4	39	—	—
Cris Dishman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Curtis Duncan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ernest Givins	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Steve Jackson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Haywood Jeffires	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Darryll Lewis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bo Orlando	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Marcus Robertson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Sean Salisbury	6	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Webster Slaughter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Spencer Tillman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gary Wellman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lorenzo White	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

JEFF FISHBEIN

Cris Dishman is a great cover man.

Smith, a starter the last seven seasons, led the Oilers in tackles (95) in 1993. He is backed up by Micheal Barrow, who is coming off an impressive rookie season. Barrow also might see action at outside linebacker.

The most talented linebacker is Lamar Lathon, but he might not start. Last season, he came off the bench as a designated pass rusher. In '94, the coaches hope to get Lathon on the field more often to take advantage of his speed.

Veteran Scott Kozak and rookies Barron Wortham and Lemanski Hall will battle for reserve duties.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The secondary was devastated by injuries late last season. Three starters (cornerback Darryll Lewis, free safety Marcus Robertson and strong safety Bubba McDowell) suffered knee injuries. Lewis and Robertson underwent major surgery, but all three are healthy. Add cornerback Cris Dishman, one of the league's top cover men, and the Oilers have a top-notch secondary.

Because of the injuries, cornerback Steve Jackson, strong safety Blaine Bishop and free safety Bo Orlando all got lots of playing time last year. Orlando is a former starter and a solid backup. Jackson, who excels at man coverage, is the first cornerback off the bench when he isn't starting. Bishop, an eighth-round draft choice in 1993, was a major surprise because of his toughness and versatility.

Cornerback Tony Brown and free safety Mike Dumas are veterans who might fit into the picture. Big things are expected from fourth-round draft pick Mike Davis, a cornerback who is expected to cover an outside receiver in four-wideout formations.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Al Del Greco gets better with age. Last season, the 32-year-old place-kicker scored a team-record 126 points. He hit 29 of 34 field-goal attempts (85.3 percent, which tied for third in the NFL) and excelled on kickoffs.

The defection of free agent Greg Montgomery, the top punter in the NFL last season, to Detroit hurts the Oilers. But they replaced him with Arizona free agent Rich Camarillo, who has been to four of the last five Pro Bowls.

Houston's coverage teams are excellent, but its return units have been pathetic for years. No Oiler punt returner has posted a double-figure return average since Billy (White Shoes) Johnson in 1977. Houston hopes Lee Gissendaner, a sixth-round draft choice last April, will change that. The Northwestern product, who has quickness but lacks speed, will handle kickoff and punt returns. ◆

Steelers making 'special' effort to improve in '94

By GERRY DULAC
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Even though they're coming off their second straight playoff appearance, the Pittsburgh Steelers are trying to determine what went wrong in 1993.

Oh, Pittsburgh's 16-9 win over Cleveland in the regular-season finale was a big victory because it allowed the club to secure a wild-card playoff berth. But the Steelers' season ended in a sea of frustration and finger-pointing that mostly centered around the special teams.

The special teams were responsible for a fiasco in Cleveland on October 24, when the Browns' Eric Metcalf returned two punts for touchdowns in a 28-23 Pittsburgh loss, and they were largely responsible for the playoff defeat at Kansas City, which included a critical blocked punt in the fourth quarter of a 27-24 overtime setback.

Shortly after the season ended, Coach Bill Cowher shook up his staff. He fired the assistant coaches who were in charge of the Steelers' three weakest areas—special-teams coach John Guy, defensive line coach Steve Furness and wide receivers coach Bob Harrison.

Those are the three areas Pittsburgh must improve drastically if it wants to make the playoffs for a third consecutive year. The return to health of 1992 Pro Bowl running back Barry Foster (left ankle surgery) will help the Steelers reach their goal. Also, the arrival of first-round draft choice Charles Johnson, a fleet wide receiver from Colorado, should improve an offense that scored just 93 points over the final seven regular-season games.

COACHING

The Steelers did not make the playoffs in the two years before Cowher arrived, so his ability to get the team into the postseason in each of his two seasons is a major bonus. Cowher's biggest decisions as Pittsburgh coach came during his first season, when he inserted Neil O'Donnell as the starting quarterback and turned most of the control of the offense over to coordinator Ron Erhardt, who knows a little something about ball control. The 1994 season will be Erhardt's 22nd in the National Football League.

Last year, with a nagging elbow injury bothering O'Donnell all season and Foster sidelined by an ankle injury after the ninth game, Cowher was able to keep the team together with a defense that finished the season ranked third in the NFL (283.2 yards per game).

However, if there was a chink in Cowher's coaching armor, it was his inability to make changes to his special-teams units during the season. And this is a man who began his coaching career as a special-teams guru with Cleveland (1985-86). Cowher waited too long to make changes, and even wrongly blamed punter Mark Royals when Miami's O.J. McDuffie returned a punt for a touchdown that almost cost the Steelers a victory over the Dolphins last December.

OFFENSE

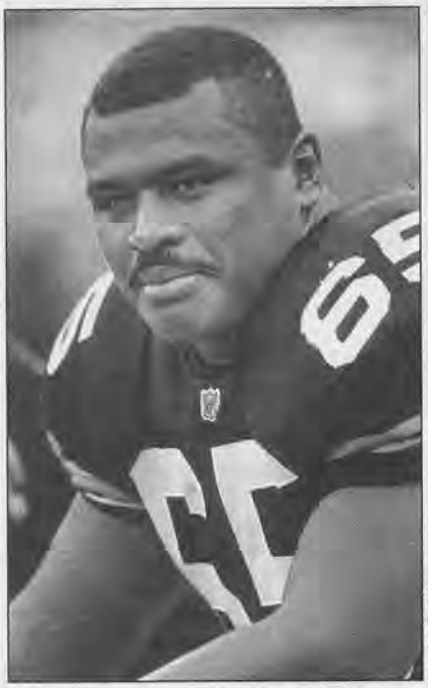
QUARTERBACKS—Just like last season, there is no question that O'Donnell is the No. 1 signal-caller. His proficiency (only 16 interceptions over the last two seasons) makes him a favorite of the coaching staff, which likes to minimize mistakes and emphasize ball control.

Unlike 1992, when he played in the Pro Bowl as a first-year starter, O'Donnell did not dazzle last season. However, his numbers (he completed 270 of 486 passes for 3,208 yards and 14 TDs) were moderately efficient, and he did play most of the season with tendinitis in his right elbow.

Returning as the backup is Mike Tomczak, a nine-year veteran who often tries to force the ball into double coverage. He completed 29 of 54 passes for 398 yards and two touchdowns last season, but he had five interceptions—just two fewer than O'Donnell, who attempted 432 more passes.

In the off-season, perennial third-stringer Rick Strom signed with Buffalo. That clears the way for Michigan State product Jim Miller, a sixth-round draft choice, to win a roster spot. Miller is big (6-foot-2, 226 pounds) and strong like O'Donnell, but Pittsburgh is concerned about his accuracy.

RUNNING BACKS—Foster was en route to a second straight 1,000-yard rushing season when he sprained his ankle against Buffalo in a Monday-night encounter November 15. With Foster, the Steelers were 6-3 and averaged 23.9 points per game. Without him, Pittsburgh lost four of its final seven regular-season games and averaged only 13.3 points. Foster finished with 711 yards rushing and a team-high eight rushing TDs.


MITCHELL LAYTON

Left tackle John Jackson shut down most of the NFL's best pass rushers last season.

Foster's replacement, Leroy Thompson, was productive. The three-year veteran, who likely won't be back with the team, ran for a team-high 763 yards on 205 carries and caught 38 passes. But without Foster in the lineup, opposing defenses no longer feared Pittsburgh's ground attack.

Texas Tech's Byron (Bam) Morris, a third-round draft pick last April, will serve as Foster's backup.

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Running back Barry Foster, who is expected to return 100 percent from left ankle surgery, is a valuable weapon in Pittsburgh's ball-control offense. Quarterback Neil O'Donnell benefits from the presence of an outstanding center (Dermontti Dawson) and tight end (Eric Green). Outside linebackers Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd are the heart of the defense, and Rod Woodson is the best cornerback in the NFL.

Weaknesses: The Steelers hope that first-round draft choice Charles Johnson is a go-to receiver. Guard Carlton Haselrig, beset by injury and drug dependency last season, needs to return to his 1992 Pro Bowl form. The defensive line still lacks a pass rusher.

Keys to success: Pittsburgh enters every game trying to control the ball on offense and force turnovers on defense. Foster's health is essential because without him, the Steelers lose their biggest offensive weapon. Defensively, the Steelers need a dominating end to take some of the attention off Lloyd, who gets worn down from being pounded by big offensive tackles.

That's a fact: Last year marked the Steelers' second straight playoff appearance. The last time Pittsburgh appeared in the postseason two consecutive seasons was 1983 and '84.

Coach Bill Cowher says: "You have to be very careful how your football team is structured. That's why I don't think we can overreact to any one particular loss and do something, and then suffer repercussions from that as well. We're obviously aware of needs going into the season."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Johnson	Hastings	Thigpen
LT	Jackson	Strzelczyk	
LG	Love	Palelei	
C	Dawson	Solomon	Gammon
RG	Haselrig	Kalis	Simpson
RT	Searcy	Strzelczyk	
TE	Green	Jorden	Keith
WR	Mills	Davenport	Stone
QB	O'Donnell	Tomczak	Miller
RB	Foster	Thompson	Morris
FB	J. Williams	Abrams	Cuthbert

DEFENSE

LE	Seals	Henry	
NT	Steed	Zgonina	
RE	G. Williams	Buckner	
OLB	Lloyd	Gildon	
ILB	C. Brown	Barnes	
ILB	Kirkland	Ravotti	
OLB	Greene	Mack	
CB	Woodson	Shelton	
CB	Figures	W. Williams	
SS	Lake	Bell	
FS	Perry	G. Jones	

SPECIALISTS

K	Anderson	KR	Woodson, Hastings
P	Royals	PR	Woodson, Figures

PITTSBURGH STEELERS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Bill Cowher.
Assistant coaches: • Bobby April (special teams) • Dom Capers (defensive coordinator) • Ron Erhardt (offensive coordinator) • Chan Gailey (wide receivers) • Dick Hoak (running backs) • Pat Hodgson (tight ends) • Dick LeBeau (defensive backs) • Marvin Lewis (linebackers) • John Mitchell (defensive line) • Kent Stephenson (offensive line).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 9-7 (2nd in AFC Central); 3-3 in division; 7-5 in conference; 6-2 at home; 3-5 on road.
1993 playoff record: Lost to Chiefs, 27-24 (OT), in AFC wild-card game.
Cowher's regular-season record: 20-12 in two seasons with Steelers.
Cowher's postseason record: 0-2 in two playoffs with Steelers.
Team record last five years: 45-35 (.563, ranks T11th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	5	7
Rushing offense	2	6
Passing offense	9	13
Scoring offense	7	13
Total defense	1	3
Rushing defense	3	3
Passing defense	7	15
Scoring defense	4	8
Takeaways	T3	T3
Giveaways	4	7
Turnover differential	3	T3
Sacks	5	11
Sacks allowed	T11	T24

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Charles Johnson	WR	Colorado
2nd	Brentson Buckner	DE	Clemson
3rd	Jason Gildon	LB	Oklahoma State
3rd	Byron Morris	RB	Texas Tech
4th	Taase Faumui	DE	Hawaii
5th	Myron Bell	SS	Michigan State
5th	Gary Brown	T	Georgia Tech
6th	Jim Miller	QB	Michigan State
6th	Eric Ravotti	LB	Penn State
7th	Brice Abrams	FB	Michigan State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	DALLAS	4:00
Sept.	11	at Cleveland	1:00
Sept.	18	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Sept.	25	at Seattle	1:00
Oct.	3	HOUSTON (Mon.)	9:00
Oct.	10	Open date	
Oct.	16	CINCINNATI	1:00
Oct.	23	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Oct.	30	at Arizona	6:00
Nov.	6	at Houston	12:00
Nov.	14	BUFFALO (Mon.)	9:00
Nov.	20	MIAMI	1:00
Nov.	27	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Dec.	4	at Cincinnati	1:00
Dec.	11	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Dec.	18	CLEVELAND	1:00
Dec.	24	at San Diego (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	SAN FRANCISCO	L	13-24
Sept.	12	at L.A. Rams	L	0-27
Sept.	19	CINCINNATI	W	34-7
Sept.	27	at Atlanta	W	45-17
Oct.	3	Open date		
Oct.	10	SAN DIEGO	W	16-3
Oct.	17	NEW ORLEANS	W	37-14
Oct.	24	at Cleveland	L	23-28
Oct.	31	Open date		
Nov.	7	at Cincinnati	W	24-16
Nov.	15	BUFFALO	W	23-0
Nov.	21	at Denver	L	13-37
Nov.	28	at Houston	L	3-23
Dec.	5	NEW ENGLAND	W	17-14
Dec.	13	at Miami	W	21-20
Dec.	19	HOUSTON	L	17-26
Dec.	26	at Seattle	L	6-16
Jan.	2	CLEVELAND	W	16-9

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Three Rivers Stadium (59,600, artificial) • Ticket information: 412-323-1200 • Flagship radio station: WTAE, 1250 AM • Training site: St. Vincent College, Latrobe, Pa.; 412-539-8515.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Pittsburgh's 12 interceptions thrown last year were the fewest ever by the Steelers in a 16-game season?

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

Rod Woodson was voted NFL Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press in 1993.

The signing of Seattle free-agent fullback John L. Williams actually strengthened a position left vacant when Merril Hoge signed with Chicago. Williams, who has averaged 66.7 catches per season the last six years, is a better receiver than Hoge and should be a productive third-down player.

RECEIVERS—This has been the Steelers' weakest offensive position for years, but their search for a go-to receiver might be over. Barring a complete collapse, Johnson should have no problem becoming the team's No. 1 receiver, a spot previously held by Dwight Stone, who grabbed just 41 passes in '93.

The Steelers finally gave up on Jeff Graham, a second-round pick in 1991, trading him to Chicago for a 1995 draft pick. That should give Johnson and last year's third-round pick, Andre Hastings, plenty of playing time. In addition, fourth-year veteran Ernie Mills, who caught 29 passes for 386 yards in '93, can settle into a more natural position as a secondary receiver.

Thanks to good health, tight end Eric Green enjoyed a fine season. He paced the team with 63 receptions for 942 yards and five touchdowns. The Steelers traded tight end Adrian Cooper, a superb blocker, to Minnesota in the off-season.

LINEMEN—This unit boasts four potential Pro Bowlers, but they were unable to put it all together last season. Dermontti Dawson probably is the league's finest center. Last year, Dawson was the only lineman to outperform left tackle John Jackson, who shut

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Gary Anderson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	5	—	32	—	—
Barry Foster	—	—	—	—	7	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Eric Green	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Levon Kirkland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ernie Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Neil O'Donnell	9	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Ray Seals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dwight Stone	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Yancey Thigpen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Leroy Thompson	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Mike Tomczak	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
John L. Williams	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Rod Woodson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

down most of the league's best pass rushers while helping the Steelers rank sixth in the NFL in rushing (125.2 yards per game). Duval Love is a returning starter at left guard.

The future of right guard Carlton Haselrig, a 1992 Pro Bowl selection who had injury and substance-abuse problems last season, is cloudy. Cowher lost patience with Haselrig's continual absence from off-season workouts, which prompted Pittsburgh to sign Minnesota free agent guard Todd Kalis. Regardless of who plays right guard, the Steelers can count on right tackle Leon Searcy, who is on the verge of stardom.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Steelers made this is a priority in the draft, and it had nothing to do with the free-agent defection of ends Donald Evans, who signed with the New York Jets, and Kenny Davidson, who signed with Houston. Evans' moaning about pay made him more of a distraction than an asset last season.

Joel Steed developed into a solid nose tackle in his second season. He should be helped by the addition of free agent Ray Seals, a pass-rushing end who played with Tampa Bay last season, and 305-pound manchild Brentson Buckner, a second-round draft choice from Clemson. Gerald Williams provides a veteran presence at right end.

The fact that the Steelers drafted Oklahoma State linebacker Jason Gildon, a converted end, underscores the team's need for a stronger front.

LINEBACKERS—This remains a position of strength, even though the career of inside linebacker Jerry Olsavsky apparently was ended when he dislocated his left knee October 24 at Cleveland.

Olsavsky's injury forced Chad Brown, a second-round pick in 1993, into the lineup. He quickly showed flashes of brilliance en route to leading the team with 10 quarterback pressures. Levon Kirkland joins Brown on the inside.

Of course, the heart of the unit remains on the outside, where three-time Pro Bowler Greg Lloyd finally is being recognized as one of the NFL's best.

Kevin Greene, an outstanding free-agent acquisition last season, doesn't appear to be slowing down. He is entering his 10th season, but he led Pittsburgh in sacks (12½) in 1993. However, after a fast start, Greene tailed off in the second half of the season.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Few teams could withstand the loss of a cornerback such as D.J. Johnson, who signed with Atlanta in the off-season. But the Steelers aren't concerned.

That's because Deon Figures, Pittsburgh's first-round draft pick in 1993, is ready to start and maybe even star. It is highly improbable, however, that Figures even can be considered the best cornerback on the Steelers' roster. That honor goes to Rod Woodson, who was voted the NFL Defensive Player of the Year by the Associated Press last year. Woodson, a five-time Pro Bowl representative, led the team with 79 solo tackles, eight interceptions and 28 passes defended in 1993.

Strong safety Carnell Lake and free safeties Darren Perry and Gary Jones help give Pittsburgh a deep, talented secondary.

1994 PITTSBURGH STEELERS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
16	Miller, Jim	6-2/226	2-9-71	R	Michigan State	D6/94	—
14	O'Donnell, Neil	6-3/230	7-3-66	5	Maryland	D3/90	16/15
18	Tomczak, Mike	6-1/207	10-23-62	10	Ohio State	FA/93	7/1
	RUNNING BACKS						
49	Abrams, Brice (FB)	6-1/258	8-10-71	R	Michigan State	D7/94	—
43	Avery, Steve	6-2/233	8-18-66	1	Northern Michigan	FA/93	0/0
42	Cuthbert, Randy (FB)	6-3/226	1-16-70	2	Duke	FA/93	10/0
29	Foster, Barry	5-10/218	12-8-68	5	Arkansas	D5/90	9/9
30	Jones, Victor (FB)	5-8/223	12-5-67	5	Louisiana State	FA/93	16/0
44	Morris, Byron	6-0/235	1-13-72	R	Texas Tech	D3/94	—
34	Thompson, Leroy	5-11/217	2-3-68	4	Penn State	D6/91	15/6
	Williams, John L. (FB)	5-11/231	11-23-64	9	Florida	FA/94	*16/9
	RECEIVERS						
80	Davenport, Charles	6-3/210	11-22-68	3	North Carolina State	D4/92	16/0
86	Green, Eric (TE)	6-5/280	6-22-67	5	Liberty (Va.)	D1/90	16/16
88	Hastings, Andre (KR)	6-0/190	11-7-70	2	Georgia	D3/93	6/0
9	Johnson, Charles	6-0/189	1-3-72	R	Colorado	D1/94	—
84	Jorden, Tim (TE)	6-3/240	10-30-66	5	Indiana	FA/92	16/1
87	Keith, Craig (TE)	6-3/254	4-27-71	2	Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.)	D7/93	1/0
89	Mills, Ernie	5-11/192	10-28-68	4	Florida	D3/91	14/5
20	Stone, Dwight	6-0/180	1-28-64	8	Middle Tennessee State	FA/87	16/15
82	Thigpen, Yancey	6-1/208	8-15-69	3	Winston-Salem (N.C.) State	FA/92	12/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
68	Brown, Gary (T)	6-4/288	6-25-71	R	Georgia Tech	D5/94	—
63	Dawson, Dermontti (C)	6-2/286	6-17-65	7	Kentucky	D2/88	16/16
60	Gammon, Kendall (C)	6-4/288	10-28-68	3	Pittsburg (Kan.) State	D11/92	16/0
77	Haselrig, Carlton (G)	6-1/295	1-22-66	5	Pittsburgh-Johnstown	D12/89	9/4
65	Jackson, John (T)	6-6/297	1-4-65	7	Eastern Kentucky	D10/88	16/16
	Kalis, Todd (G)	6-5/291	5-10-65	7	Arizona State	FA/94	*16/7
67	Love, Duval (G)	6-3/288	6-24-63	10	UCLA	PlanB/92	16/16
66	Palelei, Lonnie (G)	6-3/320	10-15-70	2	UNLV	D5/93	3/0
72	Searcy, Leon (T)	6-3/304	12-21-69	3	Miami (Fla.)	D1/92	16/16
69	Solomon, Ariel (C/T)	6-5/290	7-16-68	4	Colorado	D10/91	16/0
73	Strzelczyk, Justin (T/G)	6-6/295	8-18-68	5	Maine	D11/90	16/12
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
74	Buckner, Brentson (E)	6-2/305	9-30-71	R	Clemson	D2/94	—
78	Faumui, Taase (E)	6-3/278	3-19-71	R	Hawaii	D4/94	—
76	Henry, Kevin (E)	6-4/270	10-23-68	2	Mississippi State	D4/93	12/1
97	Seals, Ray (E)	6-3/309	6-17-65	7	None	FA/94	*16/11
93	Steed, Joel (NT)	6-2/295	2-17-69	3	Colorado	D3/92	14/12
96	Sutton, Ricky	6-2/282	4-27-71	2	Auburn	FA/93	7/0
98	Williams, Gerald (E)	6-3/288	9-8-63	9	Auburn	D2/86	10/8
90	Zgonina, Jeff (NT)	6-1/287	5-24-70	2	Purdue	D7/93	5/0
	LINEBACKERS						
50	Barnes, Reggie	6-1/238	10-23-69	2	Oklahoma	FA/93	16/0
94	Brown, Chad	6-2/236	7-12-70	2	Colorado	D2/93	16/9
51	Gildon, Jason	6-3/237	7-31-72	R	Oklahoma State	D3/94	—
91	Greene, Kevin	6-3/247	7-31-62	10	Auburn	FA/93	16/16
54	Hoffmann, Dave	6-2/230	7-24-70	1	Washington	FA/93	1/0
99	Kirkland, Levon	6-1/252	2-17-69	3	Clemson	D2/92	16/13
95	Lloyd, Greg	6-2/226	5-26-65	8	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	D6/87	15/15
56	Mack, Rico	6-4/242	2-22-71	2	Appalachian State	FA/93	8/0
57	Ravotti, Eric	6-3/254	3-16-71	R	Penn State	D6/94	—
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
40	Bell, Myron (S)	5-11/203	9-15-71	R	Michigan State	D5/94	—
21	Figures, Deon (CB/PR)	6-0/203	1-10-70	2	Colorado	D1/93	15/4
36	Foggie, Fred	6-0/200	6-10-69	1	Minnesota	FA/93	0/0
28	Haller, Alan (CB)	5-11/186	8-9-70	3	Michigan State	FA/93	4/0
25	Jones, Gary (S)	6-2/214	11-30-67	5	Texas A&M	D9/90	13/2
37	Lake, Carnell (S)	6-1/210	7-15-67	6	UCLA	D2/89	14/14
39	Perry, Darren (S)	5-11/196	12-29-68	3	Penn State	D8/92	16/16
24	Shelton, Richard (CB)	5-10/202	1-2-66	5	Liberty (Va.)	FA/91	9/2
27	Williams, Willie (CB)	5-9/185	12-26-70	2	Western Carolina	D6/93	16/0
26	Woodson, Rod (CB/KR/PR)	6-0/200	3-10-65	8	Purdue	D1/87	16/16
	SPECIALISTS						
1	Anderson, Gary (K)	5-11/179	7-16-59	13	Syracuse	W-Buf/82	16/0
3	Royals, Mark (P)	6-5/215	6-22-64	5	Appalachian State	PlanB/92	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Frank Adams, CB; Mike Baker, WR; Dominic Calloway, CB; Pheathur Edwards, DE; Corey Holliday, WR; Latish Kinsler, S; Curtis Parker, T; Walter Rasby, TE; Ed Robinson, LB; Patrick Scott, LB; Jon Volpe, RB; Chris Williams, DE.
*Not with Steelers in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Steelers' special teams were among the worst in the NFL last season, allowing three punts and one kickoff to be returned for touchdowns.

Lost in all that, however, was the sterling performance of veteran Gary Anderson. He was perfect on extra points (32 of 32) and hit 28 of 30 field-goal attempts (93.3 percent), which made him the AFC's most accurate place-kicker. However, he attempted no kicks from 50 or more yards.

Royals, who averaged 42.5 yards per punt and had an AFC-high 28 kicks downed inside the 20-yard line, became cautious after Metcalf's two touchdown returns because he was instructed to kick toward the sideline.

Pittsburgh fans can rejoice in the fact that Woodson again will return kicks. He averaged eight yards on 42 punt returns and 19.6 yards on 15 kickoff returns last season. ◆

Scoring points will be least of Broncos' worries

By JOSEPH SANCHEZ
Denver Post

Jim Fassel has not died and gone to offensive coordinator's heaven. It only seems that way every time he sits down and reviews the offensive depth chart of the Denver Broncos.

Life isn't supposed to be this good.

Fassel looks at the quarterback position and sees John Elway, the divine miracle-worker who is still on the high side of his illustrious career. He alone should guarantee the Broncos at least 11 victories this season.

Fassel looks at his offensive line and sees left tackle Gary Zimmerman, who is poised to protect Elway's precious backside even better than he did last season now that he and Denver's other four linemen have had a year to work together.

He looks at the backfield and sees Rod Bernstine, who has not only discovered his game in Fassel's ball-control passing attack, but also has fallen in love with it.

And then Fassel looks at the receiving corps and allows himself a moment of worry: Will there be enough lights on the scoreboard at Mile High Stadium to tally up all the touchdowns?

When the Broncos acquired wide receivers Anthony Miller and Mike Pritchard to take some of the heat off heavenly H-back Shannon Sharpe, some of the National Football League's most respected navigators immediately began to chart another trip to the Super Bowl for Denver.

And why not? The Broncos are the only team to have truly challenged the Buffalo Bills in the AFC championship game over the last four years. And if rookie place-kicker Jason Elam hadn't missed a 40-yard field goal in overtime in the last game of the regular season against the Raiders last year, they might easily have gone to Rich Stadium to challenge the Bills in January.

So . . . "it's like John says," Fassel said. "We've got ourselves some weapons. Now we have to produce.

"It should be fun. You always want your quarterback to have that kind of confidence. We're not afraid of pressure. We're not afraid of having a lot of talent on the team."

PETE J. GROH

Rod Bernstine may be the National Football League's ultimate utility running back.

If the Broncos have any worries, it is on the other side of the ball, where defensive coordinator Charlie Waters' job will be anything but a slice of heaven. He will employ as many as five new starters this season, including three in the secondary. On the depth chart, the talent Waters has to work with doesn't look nearly as good as what Fassel has at his disposal. But how good does a defense have to be if the offense is going to score five or six touchdowns a game?

COACHING

Just about anybody could take the Broncos and win nine games in almost any season. That's Wade Phillips' frustration—he doesn't want to be just anybody. He wants to be the coach who made the most of Elway's skills and finally brings a Super Bowl victory party to Denver. And he wants to do it in his second season.

"If we didn't have John Elway—if we had Jim Harbaugh or some lesser-type quarterback—we'd be more conservative and probably try to win on the defensive side," he said. "We wouldn't be out getting guys like Miller and Pritchard; we'd be getting some big running backs."

But don't be fooled. Phillips will concentrate most of his game-day energy on defense in 1994. Failing to lend his sideline expertise to Waters last year was probably Phillips' biggest mistake, and that's why Leon Fuller was hired to coach the defensive backfield and Rex Norris was hired to replace retired line coach Ernie Stautner. Phillips wants to use a four-man front as Denver's base defense in order to cut down on all the extra situation substitutions necessary in a 3-4 alignment.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The only problem here is time. It's not urgent, but Elway is 34 and he can't keep working his last-minute miracles forever. The Broncos have loaded up their offense in large part to assist the quarterback's late-career push, knowing that if they don't win a Super Bowl in the next two or three seasons it could be a long time before they get another chance.

Elway's backup is Tommy Maddox, who would be beginning his rookie NFL season if he hadn't left UCLA two years early in 1992. Experience-wise, Maddox remains little more than a 23-year-old rookie, having thrown just one pass last year and 122 in his two seasons with Denver. All the same, it is time for Maddox to "step up," in Phillips' words, and Maddox knows it.

RUNNING BACKS—The Broncos don't have running backs, and they don't have fullbacks. They have utility backs. If you can't catch the ball, block a blitzing linebacker and help out on special teams, you can't line up in Elway's backfield.

In Bernstine, the Broncos may have the NFL's ultimate utility back, someone who rushed for 816 yards last season and picked up another 372 in pass receptions. Robert Delpino, Reggie Rivers and Anthony Lynn form a strong supporting cast, but Bernstine is the main man.

RECEIVERS—What a difference a year and few million dollars can make. A glaring weakness going into the 1993 season, this is now the strength of the offense.

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Broncos scored the third-most points in the league last year, and the addition of wide receivers Anthony Miller and Mike Pritchard could make them virtually unstoppable in 1994. John Elway doesn't appear to have lost much at age 34, but he also knows he has only a few years left and thus has never been more motivated. Shannon Sharpe is one of the NFL's emerging stars. Suspect a year ago, the offensive line is now solid.

Weaknesses: Once regarded as one of the league's best grooming grounds for linebackers, Denver has let its inventory run dangerously low. In the new 4-3 defense, the Broncos will miss current New York Giant Michael Brooks more this year than they did last year. Also, with nearly half of the defense made up of new starters, it could take awhile for this unit to jell. It also wouldn't hurt the Broncos to learn how to win close games; they were 0-5 last year in games decided by three or fewer points.

Key to success: The Broncos must win at least 10 games before a brutal three-game road swing takes them to Kansas City, Los Angeles (against the Raiders) and San Francisco in December.

That's a fact: Elway has taken the Broncos to the playoffs in seven of his 11 seasons with the team and has had just one losing season (5-11, in 1990).

Coach Wade Phillips says: "We were the highest-scoring team in the AFC last season. If we'd scored three more points a game, we'd have won 14 games. With these guys, we think we can do that."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Miller	Russell	Kimbrough
LT	Zimmerman	Scrafford	
LG	Widell	Melander	
C	Kartz	Widell	Meeks
RG	Habib	Meeks	
RT	Freeman	Scrafford	
TE	Johnson	Evans	
WR	Pritchard	Campbell	
QB	Elway	Maddox	Moore
RB	Bernstine	Delpino	Rivers
HB	Sharpe	Evans	

DEFENSE

LE	Williams	J. Robinson	
LT	Dronett	Drozdov	
RT	Washington	A. Taylor	
RE	Fletcher	Oshodin	
LOLB	Croel	Lucas	
MLB	Alexander	Wyman	Donahue
ROLB	Aldridge	Mills	Burns
LCB	Crockett	Lang	Fuller
RCB	B. Smith	Bradford	F. Robinson
SS	Atwater	Hall	
FS	Jones	Lang	

SPECIALISTS

K	Elam	KR	Milburn
P	Rouen	PR	Campbell

Sharpe was virtually unstoppable last season, when he established himself as the second coming of Ozzie Newsome. Too fast for most linebackers to cover and too strong for most safeties, Sharpe became Elway's go-to guy in a dramatic breakthrough season that probably has put him at the top of most Pro Bowl ballots for the next several years.

What the Broncos lacked in 1993—any kind of threat at wide receiver—they got twofold in the off-season. Miller, who finished sixth in the league in receiving yardage and seventh in passes caught with San Diego, was signed as a free agent. Pritchard, who caught 74 passes in Atlanta's four-receiver offense, was acquired in a draft-day trade. What these two will add to Denver's offense can only be imagined, but points on the scoreboard is a safe place to start.

Derek Russell, who had something of a breakthrough year himself with 44 receptions, should be a solid swingman as the third receiver. Second-year man Tony Kimbrough's great straight-ahead speed makes him an ideal No. 4 receiver.

LINEMEN—The Broncos' success in building a big-time offensive line was a big factor in their decisions to obtain Miller and Pritchard.

With Zimmerman firmly in place at left tackle and the tenacious Dave Widell at left guard, Elway doesn't spend much time worrying about his blind side anymore. Better yet, he doesn't spend much time in the whirlpool, either. Right tackle Russell Freeman has made a quick study of the NFL in two seasons and is the best athlete on the offensive line. At 6-foot-7 and 292 pounds, right guard Brian Habib is a natural giant. Widell is the consummate utility lineman who doubles as the long-snapper.

The only cause for concern is at center, where veteran Keith Kartz tore up a knee in a celebrity ski-race accident over the winter. His rehabiilitation appears to be ahead of schedule, however, and Kartz is expected to be fit for training camp.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Opposing quarterbacks are going to see a lot more four-man fronts when they play the Broncos this season, which also means they'll be seeing a lot more of Simon Fletcher, the club's all-time sack leader who netted a team-high 13½ sacks last year.

Denver was one of the league's pioneer teams when it came to using the 3-4 defense, but those days came to an end when veteran nose tackle Greg Kragen was released and defensive tackle Ted Washington was acquired from the 49ers. What it probably all means is that Fletcher and Dan Williams, the Broncos' first-round draft pick a year ago, will line up as the team's two pass-rush specialists with Washington and Shane Dronett inside. Williams must recover fully from major knee surgery after a rough rookie year.

Keep an eye on Jeff Robinson, a second-year player who is certain to get a lot of playing time in any alignment. Phillips is so determined to get the pass-rush specialist into the lineup that he's talking about possibly moving Robinson, a defensive end last year, to middle linebacker.

LINEBACKERS—This has been a Bronco strength for 20 years, but Denver will be short on numbers entering the 1994 season—especially if Fletcher makes a permanent move to the defensive line. Also down is the level of talent, with or without veteran Pro Bowler Karl Mecklenburg, which is another reason for going to a four-man front.

In a three-man alignment without Fletcher, Mike Croel would be the only linebacker with big-time talent, with rookie Allen Aldridge probably moving into Fletcher's old spot on the right side. Veteran inside linebacker Dave Wyman would be the logical

Continued

1994 DENVER BRONCOS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
15	Carlson, Jeff	6-3/212	5-23-66	5	Weber State	FA/94	0/0
7	Elway, John	6-3/215	6-28-60	12	Stanford	T-Bal/83	16/16
8	Maddox, Tommy	6-4/195	9-2-71	3	UCLA	D1/92	16/0
12	Moore, Shawn	6-2/213	4-4-68	4	Virginia	D11/91	0/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
33	Bernstine, Rod	6-3/238	2-8-65	8	Texas A&M	FA/93	15/14
28	By'not'e, Butler	5-9/190	9-29-72	R	Ohio State	D7/94	—
39	Delpino, Robert	6-0/205	11-2-65	7	Missouri	FA/93	16/4
37	Lynn, Anthony	6-3/230	12-21-68	2	Texas Tech	FA/93	13/0
22	Milburn, Glyn (KR)	5-8/177	2-19-71	2	Stanford	D2/93	16/2
38	Rivers, Reggie	6-1/215	2-22-68	4	Southwest Texas State	FA/91	16/2
	RECEIVERS						
83	Bonner, Melvin	6-3/207	2-18-70	2	Baylor	D6/93	3/0
10	Campbell, Jeff (PR)	5-8/167	3-26-68	5	Colorado	FA/94	*10/0
88	Evans, Jerry (TE/H-B)	6-4/250	9-28-68	2	Toledo	FA/93	14/2
89	Johnson, Reggie (TE)	6-2/256	1-27-68	4	Florida State	D2/91	13/12
80	Kimbrough, Tony	6-2/192	9-17-70	2	Jackson State	D7/93	15/0
83	Miller, Anthony	5-11/190	4-15-65	7	Tennessee	FA/94	*16/16
81	Pritchard, Mike	5-10/190	10-26-69	4	Colorado	T-Atl/94	*15/14
81	Rose, Barry	6-0/185	7-28-68	2	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	FA/93	3/0
85	Russell, Derek	6-0/179	6-22-69	4	Arkansas	D4/91	13/12
84	Sharpe, Shannon (H-B)	6-2/230	6-26-68	5	Savannah (Ga.) State	D7/90	16/12
81	Taylor, Kitrick	5-11/189	7-22-64	7	Washington State	FA/93	2/0
87	Tillman, Cedric	6-2/204	7-22-70	3	Alcorn State	D11/92	14/3
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
68	Freeman, Russell (T)	6-7/290	9-2-69	3	Georgia Tech	FA/92	14/14
75	Habib, Brian (G)	6-7/292	12-2-64	6	Washington	FA/93	16/16
72	Kartz, Keith (C)	6-4/270	5-5-63	8	California	FA/87	12/10
78	Maggs, Don (T)	6-5/290	11-1-61	9	Tulane	FA/93	7/2
61	Meeks, Bob (C/G)	6-2/279	5-28-69	3	Auburn	D10/92	8/0
64	Melander, Jon (G)	6-7/280	12-27-66	4	Minnesota	W-Cin/93	14/7
66	Nalen, Tom (C)	6-2/280	6-13-71	R	Boston College	D7/94	—
76	Scrafford, Kirk (T)	6-6/265	3-13-67	5	Montana	W-Cin/93	16/0
79	Widell, Dave (C/G)	6-6/292	5-14-65	7	Boston College	T-Dal/91	15/15
65	Zimmerman, Gary (T)	6-6/294	12-13-61	9	Oregon	T-Min/94	16/16
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
99	Dronett, Shane (T)	6-6/275	1-12-71	3	Texas	D2/92	16/16
97	Drozdov, Darren (T)	6-3/280	4-7-69	2	Maryland	FA/93	6/2
73	Fletcher, Simon (E)	6-5/240	2-18-62	10	Houston	D2/85	16/16
91	Oshodin, Willie (E)	6-4/260	9-16-69	3	Villanova	FA/92	15/5
94	Robinson, Jeff (E)	6-4/265	2-20-70	2	Idaho	D4/93	16/0
95	Taylor, Alphonso (T)	6-3/350	9-7-69	2	Temple	W-Pho/93	3/0
98	Washington, Ted (T)	6-4/295	4-13-68	4	Louisville	FA/94	*12/12
90	Williams, Dan (E)	6-4/290	12-15-69	2	Toledo	D1/93	13/11
	LINEBACKERS						
57	Aldridge, Allen	6-1/245	5-30-72	R	Houston	D2/94	—
58	Alexander, Elijah	6-2/230	8-8-70	3	Kansas State	W-TB/93	16/0
56	Burns, Keith	6-2/245	5-16-72	R	Oklahoma State	D7/94	—
51	Croel, Mike	6-3/231	6-6-69	4	Nebraska	D1/91	16/16
54	Donahue, Mitch	6-2/254	2-4-68	4	Wyoming	W-SF/93	13/0
73	Fletcher, Simon (E)	6-5/240	2-18-62	10	Houston	D2/85	16/16
52	Harvey, Richard	6-1/242	9-11-66	5	Tulane	FA/94	*15/0
59	Lucas, Tim	6-3/230	4-3-61	8	California	FA/87	7/0
77	Mecklenburg, Karl	6-3/235	9-1-60	12	Minnesota	D12/83	16/16
52	Mills, Jeff	6-3/238	10-8-68	5	Nebraska	W-SD/90	13/0
92	Wyman, Dave	6-2/248	3-31-64	8	Stanford	FA/93	16/16
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
27	Atwater, Steve (S)	6-3/217	10-28-66	6	Arkansas	D1/89	16/16
11	Ball, Michael	6-1/215	8-5-64	6	Southern (La.)	FA/94	*5/0
23	Bradford, Ronnie (CB)	5-10/188	10-1-70	2	Colorado	FA/93	10/3
34	Braxton, Tyrone (CB)	5-11/185	12-17-64	8	North Dakota State	D12/87	16/16
20	Crockett, Ray (CB)	5-10/185	1-5-67	6	Baylor	FA/94	*16/16
29	Dimry, Charles (CB)	6-0/175	1-31-66	8	UNLV	PlanB/91	12/11
24	Fuller, Randy (CB/KR)	5-9/173	6-2-70	R	Tennessee State	D4/94	—
40	Hall, Darryl (S)	6-2/210	8-1-66	2	Washington	FA/93	16/2
	Hilliard, Randy (CB)	5-11/160	6-2-67	5	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/94	*12/5
31	Jones, Rondell (S)	6-2/210	5-7-71	2	North Carolina	D3/93	16/0
21	Lang, Le-Lo (CB/S)	5-11/185	1-23-67	5	Washington	D5/90	16/0
36	Robinson, Frank (CB)	5-11/174	1-11-69	3	Boise State	D5/92	16/2
26	Smith, Ben (CB)	5-11/185	5-14-67	5	Georgia	T-Phi/94	*13/3
49	Smith, Dennis (S)	6-3/200	2-3-59	14	Southern California	D1/81	14/14
	SPECIALISTS						
1	Elam, Jason (K)	5-11/192	3-8-70	2	Hawaii	D3/93	16/0
16	Rouen, Tom (P)	6-3/215	6-9-68	2	Colorado	FA/93	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Trumane Bell, TE; Dwayne Carswell, TE; Brian Dyet, OL; Kevin Farkas, T; Carlos Fowler, DL; Eric Geter, CB; Kenny Hall, G/T; Olaf Hampel, OL; Harald Hasselbach, DL; Ray Jacobs, LB; Billy Lofton, DE; Tim Mosley, WR; Jamie Redmond, CB; Sebastian Savage, CB; Rod Smith, WR; Chuck Snowden, RB; Deon Strother, RB; Charles Swann, WR; Scott Vaughn, OL.
*Not with Broncos in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

DENVER BRONCOS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Wade Phillips.
Assistant coaches: • Vernon Banks (strength and conditioning) • Barney Chavous (defensive assistant) • Jim Fassel (assistant head coach/offensive coordinator) • Mo Forte (wide receivers) • Leon Fuller (defensive backs) • Bishop Harris (running backs) • John Levra (offensive line) • Rex Norris (defensive line) • Al Reynolds (defensive assistant) • Harold Richardson (offensive assistant) • Richard Smith (special teams) • Les Steckel (tight ends and H-backs) • Charlie Waters (defensive coordinator) • John Paul Young (linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 9-7 (3rd in AFC West); 4-4 in division; 8-4 in conference; 5-3 at home; 4-4 on road.
1993 playoff record: Lost to Raiders, 42-24, in AFC wild-card game.
Phillips' regular-season record: 9-7 in one season with Broncos.
Phillips' postseason record: 0-1 in one playoff with Broncos.
Team record last five years: 45-35 (.563, ranks T11th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	3	5
Rushing offense	9	18
Passing offense	3	4
Scoring offense	1	3
Total defense	10	19
Rushing defense	4	4
Passing defense	13	27
Scoring defense	5	10
Takeaways	8	T12
Giveaways	T5	T8
Turnover differential	8	T11
Sacks	3	T4
Sacks allowed	8	T14

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
2nd	Allen Aldridge	LB	Houston
4th	Randy Fuller	CB	Tennessee State
7th	Keith Burns	LB	Oklahoma State
7th	Butler By'not'e	RB	Ohio State
7th	Tom Nalen	C	Boston College

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	SAN DIEGO	6:00
Sept.	11	at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Sept.	18	L.A. RAIDERS	2:00
Sept.	26	at Buffalo (Mon.)	9:00
Oct.	2	Open date	
Oct.	9	at Seattle	1:00
Oct.	17	KANSAS CITY (Mon.)	7:00
Oct.	23	at San Diego	1:00
Oct.	30	CLEVELAND	2:00
Nov.	6	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Nov.	13	SEATTLE	2:00
Nov.	20	ATLANTA	2:00
Nov.	27	CINCINNATI	2:00
Dec.	4	at Kansas City	3:00
Dec.	11	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Dec.	17	at San Francisco (Sat.)	1:00
Dec.	24	NEW ORLEANS (Sat.)	2:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at N.Y. Jets	W	26-20
Sept.	12	SAN DIEGO	W	34-17
Sept.	20	at Kansas City	L	7-15
Sep.	26	Open date		
Oct.	3	INDIANAPOLIS	W	35-13
Oct.	10	at Green Bay	L	27-30
Oct.	18	L.A. RAIDERS	L	20-23
Oct.	24	Open date		
Oct.	31	SEATTLE	W	28-17
Nov.	7	at Cleveland	W	29-14
Nov.	14	MINNESOTA	L	23-26
Nov.	21	PITTSBURGH	W	37-13
Nov.	28	at Seattle	W	17-9
Dec.	5	at San Diego	L	10-13
Dec.	12	KANSAS CITY	W	27-21
Dec.	18	at Chicago	W	13-3
Dec.	26	TAMPA BAY	L	10-17
Jan.	2	at L.A. Raiders (OT)	L	30-33

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Mile High Stadium (76,273, grass) • Ticket information: 303-433-7466 • Flagship radio station: KOA, 850 AM • Training site: University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colo.; 303-623-5212.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that when Wade Phillips was the Broncos' defensive coordinator, the team led the AFC in fewest points allowed in 1989 and 1991?

KEVIN REECE

John Elway is 34 and he can't keep working his last-minute miracles forever.

choice to play in the middle, but it won't be much of a surprise if it's young Elijah Alexander, another Phillips favorite who has better speed and range than Wyman.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Rondell Jones is not another Dennis Smith, but, then again, he doesn't have to be. All he has to be is another Steve Atwater. It is Atwater who will have to fill Smith's shoes at strong safety, moving there from free safety to make better use of his run-stopping skills. Since Bronco defensive backs lacked the speed to fly with the Raiders last year, the idea this year is to fly in the face of the league's new rules limiting the bump zone, and to get physical.

Newcomers Ray Crockett and Ben Smith will replace Tyrone Braxton and Charles Dimry as the starting cornerbacks, but both are better known for their aggressiveness than for their speed. The same can be said for Darryl Hall, a swing safety who will see more time in nickel and dime situations. Le-Lo Lang and Ronnie Bradford, the backup corners, also will play a lot in such situations. Denver's basic pass-defense philosophy, however, won't change much—more zone coverage and very little back-to-the-ball man coverage.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The most interesting battle here is between Jeff Campbell and Glyn Milburn, two pint-sized speedsters who will vie for the punt-return duties. Milburn fumbled a lot of punts in critical situations as a rookie last season. Place-kicker Elam and punter Tom Rouen were effective enough as rookies last year to deserve second seasons. ◆

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Rod Bernstine	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Mike Croel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Robert Delpino	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Jason Elam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	4	4	41	—	—
John Elway	10	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Reggie Johnson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tommy Maddox	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Glyn Milburn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Anthony Miller	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	7
Mike Pritchard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Reggie Rivers	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Derek Russell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	4
Shannon Sharpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	9
Cedric Tillman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
David Wyman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Chiefs seek crucial home-field playoff advantage

By RANDY COVITZ
Kansas City Star

It's all about home-field advantage.

With it, the Kansas City Chiefs are in the Super Bowl. Without home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, the Chiefs' season figures to end the same way it has each of the last four years—in the heat of a Miami or a San Diego or the cold of a Buffalo.

Not even Joe Montana and Marcus Allen could change that for the Chiefs in 1993. The Chiefs are 2-0 in playoff games at Arrowhead Stadium since 1991. But they are 1-4 on the road since 1990, including a 30-13 loss to the Bills in the AFC championship game at Rich Stadium last season.

"The record speaks very clearly," Chiefs Coach Marty Schottenheimer said. "Nobody has beaten Buffalo in Buffalo in a playoff game. They're 8-0."

Had the Chiefs not been upset by Chicago in their only home loss of the season, or had they won their last road game at Minnesota, they would have played the AFC championship game at Arrowhead, where they are 14-2 over the last two seasons.

It's no accident that with crowds of nearly 80,000 making noise and disrupting Jim Kelly's no-huddle offense, Kansas City has dominated Buffalo at Arrowhead in regular-season games, winning 23-7 last year and 33-6 in 1991. But when Buffalo has the home field, or when anyone else does. . . .

"In the AFC, the road to the Super Bowl does in fact go through Buffalo, and you're not going to succeed if you go up there," said Schottenheimer, whose team was 11-5 last year and won the AFC West for the first time since 1971. "Clearly, we are going to have to find a way to win 12 games playing in what I consider the toughest division in the National Football League, the AFC West, and that may not be enough.

"You can't walk into any game in this division and figure you have an edge."

COACHING

Schottenheimer proved last year he could change his stripes when he junked his old, run-oriented offense and hired offensive coordinator Paul Hackett to install the flashy, Bill Walsh-style attack built on high-percentage passing. The old offense stressed running the ball first and throwing play-action passes. It was predictable, and it was predicated on having the lead.

Kansas City's offense now is a version of fast-break football, in which short passes are considered extended handoffs, and it's a surprise when Hackett calls a running play on first down. Need evidence?

The Chiefs' 490 pass attempts were the most in any season under Schottenheimer, and their 287 completions were the third most in club history. The '93 Chiefs ran the ball less, with 445 rushing attempts, the fewest since 1987 (419).

Besides Hackett, offensive line coach Alex Gibbs made a big impact. Gibbs groomed two youngsters, guard Will Shields and tackle Ricky Siglar, into solid starters.

Defensive coordinator Dave Adolph took some heat last season for the 4-3 scheme that wasted Derrick Thomas at right defensive end. But Thomas, who had a career-low eight sacks in 1993, has been returned to outside linebacker.

GARY WEBER

When Joe Montana is healthy, he still is a master. He completed 61 percent of his passes and directed two playoff comebacks last season.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Montana signed a three-year contract in 1993, but it appears that this will be his second—and last—season with the Chiefs. The thinking is he'll either go out on top by becoming the first quarterback to reach five Super Bowls, or he'll call it a career, satisfied that he retrieved the two seasons he lost in San Francisco because of elbow surgery.

When Montana is healthy, he still is a master. The highest-rated passer in NFL history, he completed 61 percent of his passes and brought the Chiefs from behind in both playoff victories (over Pittsburgh and Houston) last season. Injuries, however, cost Montana five starts and forced him to leave four other regular-season games and two playoff games.

That's why the Chiefs acquired Steve Bono from San Francisco as an insurance policy after Dave Krieg went to Detroit as a free agent. Bono is familiar with the offense and has a solid working relationship with Montana. And in 1995, the job can be his.

For three years, the Chiefs have insisted that Matt Blundin is their quarterback of the

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Like a good baseball team, the Chiefs are strong up the middle. The nucleus of the defensive line, with Neil Smith, Joe Phillips and Tony Casillas, is formidable. Anchored by tackle John Alt, the offensive line has four starters still in their mid-20s or younger. Two of those starters, left guard Dave Szott and center Tim Grunhard, give this line the potential to be great. And who better to do the pitching in this offense than quarterbacks Joe Montana and Steve Bono?

Weaknesses: The once-vaunted secondary is in a shambles after the departure of Pro Bowl players Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross and injuries to safeties David Whitmore and Doug Terry. That's not a good situation when you are in the AFC West and play against such quarterbacks as John Elway, Jeff Hostetler and Rick Mirer. After Derrick Thomas and Tracy Simien, the Chiefs are thin at linebacker.

Key to success: Montana, 38, and halfback Marcus Allen, 34, must have productive seasons. An influx of new receivers, including draft picks Lake Dawson from Notre Dame and Chris Penn from Tulsa, may help. If Montana spends as much time in the trainer's room this season as last, watch out. Bono knows this offense, but his NFL experience is limited.

That's a fact: The Chiefs, Bills and 49ers are the only teams to win 10 or more games in each of the last four seasons.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer says: "I think we have an opportunity to be better than we were a year ago, particularly from the standpoint of familiarity with the offense. We're hopeful we can generate big-play opportunities."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Birden	Penn	Hughes
LT	Alt	Graham	Gaddy
LG	Szott	Villa	Knapp
C	Grunhard	Villa	Valerio
RG	Shields	Villa	Knapp
RT	Siglar	Graham	Valerio
TE	Cash	Johnson	Bartrum
WR	Davis	Barnett	Dawson
QB	Montana	Bono	Blundin
FB	Bennett	Anders	Thompson
HB	Allen	Hill	Cobb

DEFENSE

LE	Smith	Booker	McDaniels
LT	Phillips	Newton	Waldrop
RT	Casillas	Saleaumua	D. Anderson
RE	Mickell	Traylor	McDaniels
LLB	Rogers	Fields	Ale
MLB	Simien	E. Anderson	Alexander
RLB	Thomas	Harris	Shufelt
LCB	Collins	Pickens	Wilburn
RCB	Carter	Taylor	Burton
SS	Terry	Watson	Walker
FS	Whitmore	Mincy	Gay

SPECIALISTS

P	Aguiar			KR	Dickerson	Hughes	Hill
PK	Lowery	Elliott	Aguiar	PR	Hughes	Birden	

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS DATA

COACHES

Head coach:
Marty Schottenheimer.
Assistant coaches:
• Dave Adolph (defensive coordinator/linebackers) • Russ Ball (assistant strength and conditioning) • John Bunting (defensive assistant) • Herman Edwards (defensive backs) • Alex Gibbs (offensive line) • Paul Hackett (offensive coordinator) • Michael McCarthy (quality control/offense) • Tom Pratt (defensive line) • Jimmy Raye (running backs) • Dave Redding (strength and conditioning) • Al Saunders (assistant head coach/receivers) • Kurt Schottenheimer (special teams) • Darvin Wallis (quality control/defense).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 11-5 (1st in AFC West); 7-1 in division; 9-3 in conference; 7-1 at home; 4-4 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Steelers, 27-24 (OT), in AFC wild-card game; defeated Oilers, 28-20, in AFC divisional playoff game; lost to Bills, 30-13, in AFC championship game.
Schottenheimer's regular-season record: 50-29-1 in five seasons with Chiefs; 94-56-1 overall in 10 NFL seasons with Chiefs and Browns.
Schottenheimer's postseason record: 3-4 in four playoffs with Chiefs; 5-8 overall in eight playoffs with Chiefs and Browns.
Team record last five years: 50-29-1 (.631, ranks 4th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	10	16
Rushing offense	10	20
Passing offense	10	15
Scoring offense	5	8
Total defense	4	11
Rushing defense	6	9
Passing defense	6	14
Scoring defense	8	14
Takeaways	T3	T3
Giveaways	T5	T8
Turnover differential	4	T5
Sacks	8	T16
Sacks allowed	7	T11

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Greg Hill	RB	Texas A&M
2nd	Donnell Bennett	FB	Miami (Fla.)
3rd	Lake Dawson	WR	Notre Dame
3rd	Chris Penn	WR	Tulsa
4th	Bracey Walker	SS	North Carolina
5th	James Burton	CB	Fresno State
5th	Rob Waldrop	DT	Arizona
6th	Anthony Daigle	RB	Fresno State
7th	Steve Matthews	QB	Memphis State
7th	Tracy Greene	TE	Grambling State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at New Orleans	12:00
Sept.	11	SAN FRANCISCO	12:00
Sept.	18	at Atlanta	8:00
Sept.	25	L.A. RAMS	12:00
Oct.	2	Open date	
Oct.	9	at San Diego	1:00
Oct.	17	at Denver (Mon.)	7:00
Oct.	23	SEATTLE	12:00
Oct.	30	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov.	6	L.A. RAIDERS	7:00
Nov.	13	SAN DIEGO	12:00
Nov.	20	CLEVELAND	12:00
Nov.	27	at Seattle	1:00
Dec.	4	DENVER	3:00
Dec.	12	at Miami (Mon.)	9:00
Dec.	18	HOUSTON	3:00
Dec.	24	at L.A. Raiders (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at Tampa Bay	W	27-3
Sept.	12	at Houston	L	0-30
Sept.	20	DENVER	W	15-7
Sept.	26	Open date		
Oct.	3	L.A. RAIDERS	W	24-9
Oct.	10	CINCINNATI	W	17-15
Oct.	17	at San Diego	W	17-14
Oct.	24	Open date		
Oct.	31	at Miami	L	10-30
Nov.	8	GREEN BAY	W	23-16
Nov.	14	at L.A. Raiders	W	31-20
Nov.	21	CHICAGO	L	17-19
Nov.	28	BUFFALO	W	23-7
Dec.	5	at Seattle	W	31-16
Dec.	12	at Denver	L	21-27
Dec.	19	SAN DIEGO	W	28-24
Dec.	26	at Minnesota	L	10-30
Jan.	2	SEATTLE	W	34-24

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Arrowhead Stadium (77,872, grass) • Ticket information: 816-924-9400 • Flagship radio station: KCFX, 101.1 FM • Training site: University of Wisconsin-River Falls, River Falls, Wis.; 715-425-4580.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Chiefs will play four games in four different time zones (San Diego, Denver, Kansas City and Buffalo) between October 9 and October 30?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Marcus Allen	—	—	—	—	11	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Kimble Anders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tim Barnett	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
J.J. Birden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Steve Bono	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Keith Cash	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Mark Collins	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Willie Davis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	7
Lin Elliott	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
Nick Lowery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	7	1	37	—	—
Joe Montana	4	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Dan Saleaumua	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
John Stephens	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derrick Thomas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Joe Valerio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

future, and his role hasn't changed.

RUNNING BACKS—There was a time when the Chiefs' stable of talented running backs was bulging. But Christian Okoye, Barry Word, Harvey Williams and Todd McNair are gone. That leaves Allen as the featured halfback, though at 34, the Chiefs don't want Allen to carry 206 times, as he did in 1993.

Allen's skills as a runner and receiver fit the offense wonderfully, and when it comes to getting the ball into the end zone, no one does it better than Allen, who led the AFC with 15 touchdowns and the NFL with 12 rushing TDs.

Recognizing the need to groom a successor for Allen, the Chiefs spent their first-round draft choice on Texas A&M's Greg Hill, the first Southwest Conference running back to rush for more than 1,000 yards as a freshman and sophomore. Hill has the size, speed and toughness the Chiefs like in a running back. If he can master the offense, Schottenheimer won't hesitate to use him, especially to take some of the burden off Allen. Trevor Cobb, who spent his rookie season on injured reserve, also will get a long look at halfback. Journeyman John Stephens could be valuable as a swingman who could play both halfback and fullback.

The Chiefs' offense requires a fullback who can run, catch and block, and unless they sign Tom Rathman as a free agent, the choices will be Kimble Anders, Ernie Thompson or second-round pick Donnell Bennett, who played in a pro-style offense at Miami (Fla.). Anders is a rugged runner and blocker but has a tendency to drop passes. Thompson made the team as a free agent in 1993 and will be on the fringe this summer.

RECEIVERS—Speedy Willie Davis and diminutive J.J. Birden, each of whom caught more than 50 passes in '93, gave the Chiefs one of the league's most dangerous tandems. But while both are deep threats who can catch the bomb, they're square pegs in round holes in this system.

The passing game depends on big, strong receivers running short-to-intermediate routes and gaining yards after the catch. So, the Chiefs drafted Lake Dawson (6-foot-1, 204 pounds) and Chris Penn (6-2, 193). Penn led NCAA Division I-A with 143.5 receiving yards per game at Tulsa last season. Lynn Stiles, the Chiefs' vice president of player personnel and a former 49ers assistant, compares Penn to a young John Taylor.

Veteran Tim Barnett has the size to prosper in this offense, but his production has dropped off each of the last two years. Second-year players Danan Hughes and Ron Dickerson showed potential as rookies, but they'll have to win roster spots with their play on special teams.

Tight end Keith Cash, a converted wide receiver, blossomed during the second half of the season and the playoffs and will be the starter. Former Redskins tight end Jimmie Johnson and Mike Bartrum, who worked his way from the practice squad to the active roster, will be the backups.

LINEMEN—The Chiefs rebuilt the right side of the line last season with two of the most pleasant surprises of the season: guard Shields and tackle Siglar. Shields started 15 games and Siglar 14 last season. With a year's experience, they should be even better.

Left tackle John Alt went to his second con-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marcus Allen's skills as a runner and receiver fit the Kansas City offense wonderfully, and when it comes to getting the ball into the end zone, no one does it better than Allen.

secutive Pro Bowl and has started 87 consecutive games for the Chiefs, an impressive statistic for a guy who has had back and knee problems during his career. Left guard Dave Szott and center Tim Grunhard are two of the best-kept secrets in the AFC.

Veteran Danny Villa is a jack-of-all-trades who can fill in at center, guard, tackle and deep snapper. Tackle Derrick Graham can play either side. This will be a make-or-break season for Joe Valerio, who has yet to crack the starting lineup.

The Chiefs were so well-stocked on the line, they did not take a lineman in the draft but signed some 300-pound sleepers they could develop on the practice squad: Robert Gaddy of Alcorn State, Bret Kwarta of UC Davis and Emerson Martin of Hampton (Va.) Institute.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Three-time Pro Bowler Neil Smith may be the most complete defensive end in the game. He led the NFL with 15 sacks and was athletic enough to force four fumbles, recover three fumbles, block two field-goal attempts and intercept a pass.

While the Chiefs will stay in the 4-3 front, they have moved Thomas back to outside linebacker. That means Darren Mickell, who has been brought along slowly since he was picked in the 1992 supplemental draft, will be counted on to play the right side. Mickell has excellent pass-rushing skills but little NFL experience. For insurance, the Chiefs signed former Broncos defensive end Keith Traylor as a free agent.

Stopping the run is the primary reason for Schottenheimer's preference for the 4-3, and the Chiefs fortified the middle of the line by signing former Cowboys tackle Tony Casillas. He'll play alongside Joe Phillips, who usually occupies the attention of two offensive linemen. Veteran Dan Saleaumua, a fixture at tackle the last five seasons, and Tim Newton are strong backups.

The Chiefs may have a steal in Outland Trophy winner Rob Waldrop, a fifth-round draft choice from Arizona. At 6-1, Waldrop lacks the height that the scouts like to see in a defensive lineman, but he was a dominating

Continued

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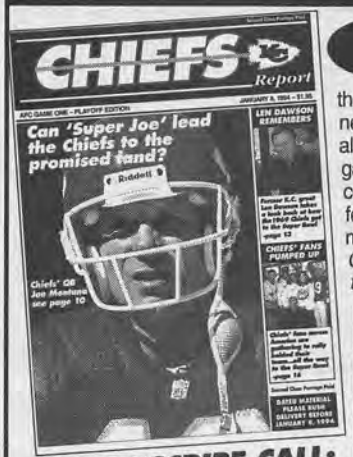

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ROBERT CHRISTIAN

Tracy Simien is a dependable plugger in the middle of Kansas City's defense.

college player with enormous strength.

LINEBACKERS—Thomas is back home at right linebacker, where he was one of the league's most feared pass rushers from 1989-92, racking up 58 sacks. Thomas is one of those rare players who can turn a game around at any time by coming up with a big sack, causing a fumble or recovering a fumble—often all on the same play.

Underrated and unheralded Tracy Simien is a dependable plugger in the middle. He is strong against the run but is replaced in passing situations. Simien usually is around the ball and has led the Chiefs in tackles the last two seasons.

The real question is who will play the left side in place of Lonnie Marts, who signed for big money with Tampa Bay. After battling injuries for three seasons, overachieving Tracy Rogers cracked the starting lineup and finished third on the team in tackles. This could be the season that second-year player Jaime Fields emerges. Fields is such a big hitter, he broke his hand in pregame warmups before the first game he was going to start in '93.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Once the pride and joy of the Kansas City defense, the secondary is in a state of transition following the free-agent departure of starting cornerbacks Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross. Mark Collins, formerly of the New York Giants, was signed as a free agent and will replace Lewis on the left side. Right corner Dale Carter proved he has the athletic ability to be a starter, but he needs to show some consistency.

Jay Taylor was solid as a nickel corner, and the Chiefs hope much-traveled Bruce Pickens can find a home with his hometown team. Fifth-round pick James Burton should win a job.

The safety positions are more unsettled. Free safety David Whitmore and strong safety Doug Terry are both recovering from knee injuries. Charles Mincy could regain the free-safety job, and rookie Bracey Walker could be a factor.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Nick Lowery, the most accurate field-goal kicker in NFL history, could be in for the battle of his 16-year Chiefs career with former Cowboys kicker Lin Elliott.

Lowery, 38, leads all place-kickers in field-goal percentage the last four years (104 of 120, 87 percent), and the average of his 16 misses has been 42 yards. He also could be affected by the change from artificial turf to natural grass at Arrowhead Stadium.

The Chiefs have replaced punter Bryan Barker with Louie Aguiar, formerly of the New York Jets, who not only punts but also can kick off and try long field goals. Because of two rule changes—kickoffs from the 30-yard line and spotting the ball at the point of the kick after field-goal misses—the Chiefs may keep two kickers. But which two?

Free agency and other personnel decisions have gutted the Chiefs' special teams. The three leading tacklers on special teams—Fred Jones, Todd McNair and Bennie Thompson—are gone, as is Barker, Lowery's trusted holder.

The Chiefs were pedestrian kick returners in 1993 and did not bolster that department in the off-season. Carter averaged 9.1 yards per punt return, and Hughes averaged 19 yards per kickoff return. ◆

1994 KANSAS CITY CHIEFS ROSTER

No.		Ht/Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
14	Blundin, Matt	6-6/233	3-7-69	3	Virginia	D2/92	1/0
	Bono, Steve	6-4/211	5-11-62	10	UCLA	T-SF/94	*8/0
15	Matthews, Steve	6-2/217	10-13-70	R	Memphis State	D7/94	—
19	Montana, Joe	6-2/205	6-11-56	16	Notre Dame	T-SF/93	11/11
	RUNNING BACKS						
32	Allen, Marcus	6-2/210	3-26-60	13	Southern California	FA/93	16/10
38	Anders, Kimble (FB)	5-11/221	9-10-66	4	Houston	FA/91	16/13
35	Bennett, Donnell (FB)	5-11/241	9-14-72	R	Miami (Fla.)	D2/94	—
43	Daigle, Anthony	5-10/198	4-5-70	R	Fresno State	D6/94	—
23	Dickerson, Ron (KR)	6-0/211	8-31-71	2	Arkansas	FA/93	6/0
29	Hill, Greg (KR)	5-11/207	2-23-72	R	Texas A&M	D1/94	—
21	Stephens, John	6-1/215	2-23-66	7	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/93	12/5
45	Thompson, Ernie (FB)	5-11/257	10-25-69	3	Indiana	FA/93	16/2
	RECEIVERS						
82	Barnett, Tim	6-1/200	4-19-68	4	Jackson State	D3/91	16/0
87	Bartrum, Michael (TE)	6-4/234	6-23-70	2	Marshall	FA/93	3/0
88	Birden, J.J. (PR)	5-9/165	6-16-65	7	Oregon	FA/90	16/16
89	Cash, Keith (TE)	6-4/240	8-7-69	4	Texas	PlanB/92	15/0
84	Davis, Willie	6-0/172	10-10-67	3	Central Arkansas	FA/92	16/15
80	Dawson, Lake	6-1/204	1-2-72	R	Notre Dame	D3/94	—
6	DeGraffenreid, Allen	6-3/200	5-1-70	1	Ohio State	FA/93	*2/0
83	Hughes, Danan (PR/KR)	6-1/201	12-11-70	R	Iowa	D7/93	—
91	Johnson, Jimmie (TE)	6-2/248	10-6-66	6	Howard	FA/94	*6/4
81	Penn, Chris	6-2/193	4-20-71	R	Tulsa	D3/94	—
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
76	Alt, John (T)	6-8/307	5-30-62	11	Iowa	D1/84	16/16
74	Graham, Derrick (T)	6-4/306	3-18-67	5	Appalachian State	D8/90	11/2
61	Grunhard, Tim (C)	6-2/299	5-17-68	5	Notre Dame	D2/90	16/16
65	Knapp, Lindsay (G)	6-6/280	2-25-70	2	Notre Dame	D5/93	0/0
68	Shields, Will (G)	6-2/296	9-15-71	R	Nebraska	D3/93	—
66	Siglar, Ricky (T)	6-7/304	6-14-66	3	San Jose State	FA/93	14/14
79	Szott, David (G)	6-4/290	12-12-67	5	Penn State	D7/90	14/13
73	Valerio, Joe (T/C)	6-5/293	2-11-69	4	Pennsylvania	D2/91	13/0
72	Villa, Danny (C/G)	6-5/300	9-21-64	8	Arizona State	FA/93	13/3
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
99	Casillas, Tony (T)	6-3/273	10-26-63	9	Oklahoma	FA/94	*15/14
77	McDaniels, Pellom (E)	6-3/278	2-21-68	2	Oregon State	FA/93	10/0
92	Mickell, Darren (E)	6-4/280	8-3-70	3	Florida	D2/92	16/1
96	Newton, Tim (T)	6-0/269	3-23-63	9	Florida	FA/93	16/0
75	Phillips, Joe (T)	6-5/300	7-15-63	9	Southern Methodist	FA/92	16/16
97	Saleaumua, Dan (T)	6-0/300	11-25-64	8	Arizona State	PlanB/89	16/16
90	Smith, Neil (E)	6-4/273	4-10-66	7	Nebraska	D1/85	16/15
98	Waldrop, Rob (T)	6-2/275	12-1-71	R	Arizona	D5/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
50	Anderson, Erick	6-1/235	10-7-68	3	Michigan	D7/92	8/1
59	Fields, Jaime	5-11/230	8-28-70	2	Washington	D4/93	6/0
	Greene, Tracy	6-4/275	11-5-72	R	Grambling State	D7/94	—
52	Rogers, Tracy	6-2/241	8-13-67	5	Fresno State	FA/90	14/14
54	Simien, Tracy	6-1/250	5-21-67	4	Texas Christian	FA/91	16/14
58	Thomas, Derrick	6-3/242	1-1-67	6	Alabama	D1/89	16/15
94	Traylor, Keith	6-2/290	9-3-69	3	Central Oklahoma	FA/94	*5/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
30	Bayless, Martin (S)	6-2/219	10-11-62	11	Bowling Green State	PlanB/92	16/10
46	Burton, James (CB)	5-9/185	4-22-71	R	Fresno State	D5/94	—
34	Carter, Dale (CB)	6-1/188	11-28-69	3	Tennessee	D1/92	15/11
24	Collins, Mark (CB)	5-10/190	1-16-64	9	Cal State Fullerton	FA/94	*16/16
	Fullington, Darrell (S)	6-1/195	4-17-64	6	Miami (Fla.)	FA/94	0/0
42	Mincy, Charles (S)	5-11/197	12-16-69	5	Washington	D5/91	16/4
39	Pickens, Bruce (CB)	5-11/190	5-9-68	4	Nebraska	FA/93	9/4
27	Taylor, Jay (CB)	5-10/170	11-8-67	6	San Jose State	T-Pho/93	15/1
25	Terry, Doug (S)	5-11/197	2-10-68	3	Kansas	FA/92	15/8
40	Walker, Bracey (S)	5-10/200	10-28-70	R	North Carolina	D4/94	—
26	Watson, Tim (S)	6-1/213	8-13-70	2	Howard	D6/93	4/0
41	Whitmore, David (S)	6-0/232	7-6-67	5	Stephen F. Austin State	T-SF/93	6/6
47	Wilburn, Barry (CB)	6-3/186	12-9-63	7	Mississippi	FA/94	0/0
	SPECIALISTS						
5	Aguiar, Louie (P)	6-2/215	6-30-66	4	Utah State	FA/94	*16/0
2	Elliott, Lin (K)	6-0/182	11-11-68	3	Texas Tech	FA/94	*2/0
8	Lowery, Nick (K)	6-4/207	5-27-56	15	Dartmouth	FA/90	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Arnold Ale, LB; Ken Alexander, LB; Dunstan Anderson, DT; Vaughn Booker, DE; Larry Boyd, DE; Trevor Cobb, RB; Jerry Freese, LB; Robert Gaddy, T; Matt Gay, S; Monty Grow, S; Chris Hakel, QB; Bernardo Harris, LB; Bret Kwarta, G; Nick Ma'afala, DT; Emerson Martin, G; Russ McCullough, T; Fred Montgomery, WR; Brian Randall, CB; Michael Stephens, WR; Alex Van Pelt, QB.

*Not with Chiefs in 1993.

Key to abbreviations on page 158.

Raiders rekindle winning tradition with Hostetler

By STEVE SPRINGER
Los Angeles Times

A year ago, many were surprised to see the Raiders wind up with a winning record—a 10-6 mark, at that. This year, some people wouldn't be surprised to see the Raiders wind up in the Super Bowl.

Such is the dramatic progress the team has made in just one season. It started, as it usually does for any football team, with the main ingredient—the quarterback.

For the first time since the days of Jim Plunkett, the Raiders had, in Jeff Hostetler, a man at the controls who could steer the franchise back onto the path to victory.

Add to the mix seasoned veterans like Pro Bowlers Tim Brown and Terry McDaniel, put in a dash of spice with speedy rookies like James Jett and Raghib (Rocket) Ismail, pour on pass rushers like Anthony Smith and Chester McGlockton, keep it hot with a place-kicker like Jeff Jaeger and the result is a recipe for success.

But not total success.

The Raiders came up a few steps short of the Super Bowl last season when their running game went lame. The team was eliminated in Buffalo in the second round of the playoffs—although the Raiders led the Bills, 17-13, at halftime. To go farther this year, Coach Art Shell's team will need better legs. It also will need to give Hostetler better protection, find a tight end and shore up a depleted linebacking corps.

Some added depth wouldn't hurt either, but the key is the running game. Without a solid ballcarrier, all the other positives can carry the Raiders only so far.

COACHING

No histrionics from Shell. No wild gambles. No gimmicks. Not even much of a blitz. Shell follows the Raiders' traditional philosophy of trying to find the best athletes and then letting them do their thing. The Raiders had some problems last year in the second half of games, getting outscored by a 120-64 count in the final 30 minutes of their first 10 games.

The problem popped up again in their final postseason game when they couldn't hold off the Bills. Some blamed it on a failure to respond to halftime adjustments made by the opposition, while others cited a lack of motivation. Either way, it comes back to the coach. Those second-half blahs are something Shell will have to eliminate. If his team is to be a force, it must be a force for 60 minutes, not just 30.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Long a position of weakness for the Raiders, this has become a position of strength and flexibility—all thanks to Hostetler. In his first season in the silver and black, he was everything the Raiders hoped for when they signed him. And more.

Want a short, accurate passing game? In the season opener against Minnesota, Hostetler set a Raiders single-game record by completing 15 consecutive passes. Want a long-range bomber? Hostetler threw for a team-record 424 yards against San Diego. Need an additional threat on the ground? Hostetler rushed for five touchdowns last season, best on the Raiders and a team mark for a quarterback.

As long as Hostetler stays healthy, the Raiders should stay effective in 1994. But Hostetler's health is not a given, considering the punishment he took and the injuries he incurred last year. Backing him up are Vince Evans, 39, and second-year man Billy Joe Hobert.

CHUCK RYDLEWSKI

As long as Jeff Hostetler stays healthy, the Raiders should stay effective in 1994. But Hostetler's health is not a given.

RUNNING BACKS—The Raiders handed the ball to Nick Bell last year, but he didn't do much with it as the starting tailback. First, he wasn't healthy. Then, he wasn't any good. That left the Raiders with the frightening possibility that their running game would come to a grinding halt.

Instead, they found help in the most unexpected places. Rookie Greg Robinson, an eighth-round draft choice, gained 591 yards before going down with a knee injury in the 12th game of the season. Napoleon McCallum came off special teams to pick up the ball and the slack.

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Jeff Hostetler. He is a solid, versatile quarterback who can pass both long and short and also scramble. The Raiders have enough speedy, talented receivers (Tim Brown, James Jett & Co.) to launch a devastating air attack against the best of defenses. A defensive line, led by Anthony Smith, can sometimes be overpowering. The offensive line, headed by Pro Bowl guard Steve Wisniewski and center Don Mosebar, is solid. And the Raiders also have Jeff Jaeger, a dependable place-kicker.

Weaknesses: A running game that will depend on another team's backup, Harvey Williams, formerly of Kansas City; a rookie, Nebraska's Calvin Jones; and a former special-teams player, Napoleon McCallum. The Raiders' linebacking corps also is suspect. Led by unproven second-year player Greg Biekert in the middle, this group could suffer some hard knocks.

Keys to success: This team will get only as far as the legs of its running backs can carry it. The young linebackers must come on and the team has to overcome its tendency to fade in the second half of games. There could be trouble if quarterback Hostetler goes down.

That's a fact: When the Raiders beat the Denver Broncos in the first round of last season's playoffs, it was only their second postseason triumph since they beat the Washington Redskins, 38-9, in Super Bowl XVIII in 1984.

Coach Art Shell says: "We feel comfortable with the people we have. For whatever reason, we haven't gotten the kind of respect that we think we deserve. We're a good team and, as long as we know we're a good team and I feel we're a good team, I'm not concerned."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Wright	Jett	Gault
LT	Perry	Skrepenak	Stephens
LG	Wisniewski	Peat	
C	Mosebar	Turk	Peat
RG	Gogan	Montoya	Peat
RT	Wilkerson	Lanier	Patterson
TE	J. Williams	Glover	K. Smith
WR	Brown	Ismail	Hobbs
QB	Hostetler	Evans	Hobert
TB	H. Williams	C. Jones	Montgomery
FB	Gainer	McCallum	Bell

DEFENSE

LE	A. Smith	Bruce	
LT	McGlockton	Broughton	Robbins
RT	Harrison	Collons	Robbins
RE	Townsend	Bruce	
LLB	Wallace	M. Jones	Holmberg
MLB	Biekert	M. Jones	
RLB	Moss	Fulcher	Fredrickson
LCB	McDaniel	Trapp	
RCB	Lewis	Washington	Dorn
SS	Hoskins	Bates	Fulcher
FS	Anderson	Dixon	Land

SPECIALISTS

K	Jaeger	Hobert		KR	Ismail	Wright
P	Gossett	Hobert		PR	Brown	Ismail

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Art Shell.

Assistant coaches: • Fred Biletnikoff (wide receivers) • Gunther Cunningham (defensive line) • John Fox (defense) • Ray Hamilton (defensive line) • Jim Haslett (linebackers) • Bill Meyers (offensive line and tight ends) • Odis McKinney (defensive backs) • Steve Ortmayer (football operations/special teams) • Jack Reilly (offensive backs) • Jack Stanton (defensive backs) • Tom Walsh (offense) • Mike White (offensive line).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 10-6 (2nd in AFC West); 5-3 in division; 7-5 in conference; 5-3 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Broncos, 42-24, in AFC wild-card game; lost to Bills, 29-23, in AFC divisional playoff game.
Shell's regular-season record: 45-31 in five seasons with Raiders.
Shell's postseason record: 2-3 in three playoffs with Raiders.
Team record last five years: 46-34 (.575, ranks 10th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	8	13
Rushing offense	13	26
Passing offense	4	5
Scoring offense	8	14
Total defense	3	9
Rushing defense	10	20
Passing defense	3	5
Scoring defense	12	21
Takeaways	11	23
Giveaways	3	6
Turnover differential	T9	T18
Sacks	4	T7
Sacks allowed	13	27

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Rob Fredrickson	LB	Michigan State
2nd	James Folston	LB	Northeast Louisiana
3rd	Calvin Jones	RB	Nebraska
4th	Austin Robbins	DT	North Carolina
5th	Roosevelt Patterson	T	Alabama
7th	Rob Holmberg	LB	Penn State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	at San Francisco (Mon.)	6:00
Sept.	11	SEATTLE	1:00
Sept.	18	at Denver	2:00
Sept.	25	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Oct.	2	Open date	
Oct.	9	at New England	4:00
Oct.	16	at Miami	1:00
Oct.	23	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct.	30	HOUSTON	1:00
Nov.	6	at Kansas City	7:00
Nov.	13	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Nov.	20	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Nov.	27	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Dec.	5	at San Diego (Mon.)	6:00
Dec.	11	DENVER	1:00
Dec.	18	at Seattle	5:00
Dec.	24	KANSAS CITY (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	MINNESOTA	W	24-7
Sept.	12	at Seattle	W	17-13
Sept.	19	CLEVELAND	L	16-19
Sept.	26	Open date		
Oct.	3	at Kansas City	L	9-24
Oct.	10	N.Y. JETS	W	24-20
Oct.	18	at Denver	W	23-20
Oct.	24	Open date		
Oct.	31	SAN DIEGO	L	23-30
Nov.	7	at Chicago	W	16-14
Nov.	14	KANSAS CITY	L	20-31
Nov.	21	at San Diego	W	12-7
Nov.	28	at Cincinnati	L	10-16
Dec.	5	at Buffalo	W	25-24
Dec.	12	SEATTLE	W	27-23
Dec.	19	TAMPA BAY	W	27-20
Dec.	26	at Green Bay	L	0-28
Jan.	2	DENVER (OT)	W	33-30

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (67,800, grass) • Ticket information: 310-322-5901 • Flagship radio station: KFI, 640 AM • Training site: El Segundo, Calif.; 310-322-3451.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Howie Long was the last of the Oakland Raiders? His retirement after last season breaks the final link with the squad that left Oakland in 1982 to relocate in Los Angeles. Long's rookie year was 1981, the Raiders' farewell season in Oakland.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Nick Bell	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tim Brown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	8
Vince Evans	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Jeff Hostetler	4	7	3	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19
Raghib Ismail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jeff Jaeger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	6	4	27	—	—
James Jett	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Albert Lewis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
N. McCallum	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Terry McDaniel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Greg Robinson	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jamie Williams	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Alexander Wright	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

With Robinson not expected to be ready until midseason following reconstructive knee surgery, the Raiders added veteran Harvey Williams, who lost his job in Kansas City to former Raiders running back Marcus Allen. They also drafted Nebraska's Calvin Jones in the third round. McCallum will be around to help on short-yardage and goal-line situations. With the release of Steve Smith, Derrick Gainer is the favorite for the fullback spot.

RECEIVERS—This is the Raiders' deepest area, a spot where they have speed to burn. Just ask any of the many opposing defenders they burned last season. Brown leads the group of pass catchers and is by far the best of the bunch, despite being the slowest.

Brown is coming off a career year in which he caught 80 passes for 1,180 yards and became one of the National Football League's top receivers, renowned for his ability to make the big play.

Operating at the other receiver spot is Alexander Wright, two-time winner of the NFL's Fastest Man competition. Speaking of fast, behind Brown and Wright are a pair of real burners: Jett, who won a gold medal in relay competition at the 1992 Olympics, and Raghib (Rocket) Ismail, whose nickname pretty much says it all.

Ismail sat out training camp last year while his contract was being negotiated and didn't make it onto the field until the fourth game of the season. With the added benefit of experience, he may become a force in '94.

The Raiders lost starting tight end Ethan Horton to Washington through free agency. Andrew Glover and veteran Jamie Williams, signed as a free agent, will battle for the starting spot.

LINEMEN—Los Angeles is solid on the left side. At guard is perennial Pro Bowler Steve Wisniewski. At left tackle is Gerald Perry, coming off a solid year that left Shell, a Hall of Fame offensive lineman himself, praising Perry to any and all who would listen. Set at center is Don Mosebar, the anchor of this

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Last season, Tim Brown became renowned for his ability to make the big play.

line for a decade.

There was some concern, however, about the right side, where tackle Bruce Wilkerson was teamed with guard Max Montoya, who will be 38 this season. So, the Raiders signed free agent Kevin Gogan (Cowboys) to take over at right guard.

Backing up on the line will be third-year player Greg Skrepenak, who is coming off an ankle injury that cost him last season, and veteran Todd Peat, who did his William (Refrigerator) Perry impersonation last season on several occasions by moving to the backfield.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Most teams that lose a standout like Howie Long would be hurting. But the Raiders are not most teams. Although Long has rushed from the field into retirement and the broadcast booth, the Raiders remain strong on the line.

Anthony Smith (12½ sacks last year despite a serious finger injury and 36 sacks in his three years in the league), Nolan Harrison, Chester McGlockton and Greg Townsend figure to be the starting foursome.

Townsend, whose playing time was drastically reduced last season to make room for Smith, still managed 7½ sacks. McGlockton, who had seven sacks and generally made his presence felt after a disappointing rookie season, plays inside at tackle along with Harrison. Willie Broughton and Aundray Bruce are the backups.

LINEBACKERS—This is an area of concern. It was such a concern that the Raiders used three of their six draft picks to select linebackers, starting with their top choice, Rob Fredrickson of Michigan State, described as one of the few true linebackers in the draft. Also picked were James Folston of Northeast Louisiana and Rob Holmberg of Penn State.

Starting middle linebacker Joe Kelly was waived. Returning are outside linebackers Winston Moss, the team's leading tackler last season, and Aaron Wallace. Also back is second-year man Greg Biekert, who will be given the chance to start in the middle. It's a lot to ask, but the Raiders don't have much choice.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—A year ago, this also was an area of concern after the loss of veteran strong safety Ronnie Lott. So the Raiders made defensive back Patrick Bates their top draft choice. Lott's spot was filled, but not by Bates. He spent last season learning as a backup when second-year man Derrick Hoskins was able to fill Lott's position, if not his leadership role.

The other spots in the secondary were occupied by cornerbacks McDaniel and Lionel Washington and free safety Eddie Anderson. McDaniel had another Pro Bowl season and led the club with five interceptions.

That proved to be more than one-third of the Raiders' total of 14, just the ninth-best figure in the AFC.

The Raiders signed veteran cornerback Albert Lewis from Kansas City to perhaps challenge Washington for a starting job. Bates should be more of a factor in his second season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Raiders have two spectacular performers. Brown and Ismail, to spearhead the key positions on the return teams. Brown is the leading punt returner in team history and Ismail led the AFC last season with a kickoff-return average of 24.2 yards. With the new rules on kickoffs, Ismail, in particular, may play a larger role.

Joining him on the kick-return squad will be either Wright or veteran Willie Gault, who returned one kick 60 yards last season. But Gault may have trouble even making the team this year with the glut of fine receivers he must compete against.

The Raiders also boast Jaeger, who had a career season last year. Jaeger's 35 field goals tied the league season mark, and he led the NFL in scoring with 132 points. Jaeger was extremely dependable, both in terms of consistency and in clutch situations. He won several games with his toe, including the regular-season finale against Denver with a 47-yard field goal in overtime to put the Raiders into the playoffs.

Jeff Gossett is a solid, veteran punter who averaged 41.8 yards last season. ◆

1994 LOS ANGELES RAIDERS ROSTER

No.	QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
11	Evans, Vince	6-2/215	6-14-55	15	Southern California	FA/90	8/1
9	Hobert, Billy Joe	6-3/225	1-8-71	1	Washington	D3/93	0/0
15	Hostetler, Jeff	6-3/220	4-22-61	11	West Virginia	FA/93	15/15
	RUNNING BACKS						
38	Bell, Nick (FB)	6-2/250	8-19-68	4	Iowa	D2/91	10/3
	Gainer, Derrick (FB)	5-11/228	8-15-66	4	Florida A&M	FA/92	11/0
	Jones, Calvin	5-11/210	11-27-70	R	Nebraska	D3/94	—
21	Jordan, Randy	5-10/205	6-6-70	2	North Carolina	FA/93	10/2
41	McCallum, Napoleon (FB)	6-2/225	10-6-63	6	Navy	T-SD/90	13/1
17	Montgomery, Tyrone	6-0/190	8-3-70	2	Mississippi	FA/93	12/0
28	Robinson, Greg	5-10/200	8-7-69	2	Northeast Louisiana	D8/93	12/12
22	Williams, Harvey	6-2/225	4-22-67	4	Louisiana State	FA/94	*7/6
	RECEIVERS						
81	Brown, Tim (PR)	6-0/195	7-22-66	7	Notre Dame	D1/88	16/16
84	Duff, John (TE)	6-7/260	7-31-67	2	New Mexico	FA/93	1/0
83	Gault, Willie	6-1/175	9-5-60	12	Tennessee	T-Chi/88	15/0
80	Hobbs, Daryl	6-2/180	5-23-68	2	Pacific	FA/93	3/0
86	Ismail, Raghib (KR/PR)	5-10/180	11-18-69	2	Notre Dame	D4/91	13/0
82	Jett, James	5-10/165	12-28-70	2	West Virginia	FA/93	16/1
39	Smith, Kevin (TE)	6-4/255	7-25-69	2	UCLA	D7/92	10/1
	Williams, Jamie (TE)	6-4/245	2-25-60	12	San Jose State	FA/94	*16/0
89	Wright, Alexander (KR)	6-0/190	7-19-67	5	Auburn	T-Dal/92	15/15
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
	Gogan, Kevin (G)	6-7/328	11-2-64	8	Washington	FA/94	*16/16
79	Lanier, Ken (T)	6-3/290	7-8-59	14	Florida State	FA/93	2/2
65	Montoya, Max (G)	6-5/295	5-12-56	16	UCLA	PlanB/90	16/16
72	Mosebar, Don (C)	6-6/300	9-11-61	12	Southern California	D1/83	16/16
	Patterson, Roosevelt (T)	6-3/310	7-12-70	R	Alabama	D5/94	—
64	Peat, Todd (G/C)	6-2/305	5-20-64	6	Northern Illinois	FA/90	16/0
71	Perry, Gerald (T)	6-6/300	11-12-64	7	Southern (La.)	FA/92	15/15
78	Skrepenak, Greg (T)	6-6/305	1-31-70	3	Michigan	D2/92	0/0
55	Stephens, Rich (T)	6-7/300	1-1-65	2	Tulsa	FA/92	16/1
67	Turk, Dan (C)	6-4/290	6-25-62	6	Wisconsin	FA/89	16/0
68	Wilkerson, Bruce (T)	6-5/295	7-28-64	8	Tennessee	D2/87	14/14
76	Wisniewski, Steve (G)	6-4/285	4-7-67	4	Penn State	D2/89	16/16
66	Wright, Steve (T)	6-6/290	4-8-59	12	Northern Iowa	FA/88	0/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
97	Broughton, Willie (T)	6-5/285	9-9-64	8	Miami (Fla.)	FA/92	15/0
56	Bruce, Aundray (E)	6-5/260	4-30-66	7	Auburn	PlanB/92	16/0
74	Harrison, Nolan (T)	6-5/285	1-25-69	4	Indiana	D6/91	16/14
91	McGlockton, Chester (T)	6-4/315	9-16-69	3	Clemson	D1/92	16/16
	Powers, Warren (E)	6-6/287	2-4-65	5	Maryland	W-Den/92	0/0
	Robbins, Austin (T)	6-6/300	3-1-71	R	North Carolina	D4/94	—
94	Smith, Anthony (E)	6-3/260	6-28-67	5	Arizona	D1/90	16/2
93	Townsend, Greg (E)	6-3/270	11-3-61	12	Texas Christian	D4/83	16/16
	LINEBACKERS						
54	Biekert, Greg	6-2/235	3-14-69	2	Colorado	D7/93	16/0
	Folston, James	6-3/240	8-14-72	R	Northeast Louisiana	D2/94	—
	Fredrickson, Rob	6-4/235	5-13-71	R	Michigan State	D1/94	—
45	Fulcher, David	6-3/245	9-28-64	9	Arizona State	FA/93	3/0
	Holmberg, Rob	6-3/215	5-6-71	R	Penn State	D7/94	—
52	Jones, Mike	6-1/230	4-15-69	4	Missouri	FA/91	16/2
99	Moss, Winston	6-3/240	12-24-65	8	Miami (Fla.)	T-TB/91	16/16
51	Wallace, Aaron	6-3/240	4-17-67	5	Texas A&M	D2/90	16/14
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
33	Anderson, Eddie (S)	6-1/210	7-22-63	9	Fort Valley (Ga.) State	FA/87	16/16
29	Bates, Patrick (S)	6-3/220	11-27-70	2	Texas A&M	D1/93	13/0
31	Dixon, Rickey (S)	5-11/185	12-26-66	7	Oklahoma	T-Cin/93	9/0
46	Dorn, Torin (CB)	6-0/190	2-29-68	5	North Carolina	D4/90	15/0
20	Hoskins, Derrick (S)	6-2/205	11-14-70	3	Southern Mississippi	D5/92	16/16
25	Land, Dan (S)	6-0/195	7-3-65	7	Albany (Ga.) State	FA/89	15/0
24	Lewis, Albert (CB)	6-2/195	10-6-60	12	Grambling State	FA/94	*14/13
36	McDaniel, Terry (CB)	5-10/180	2-8-65	7	Tennessee	D1/88	16/16
37	Trapp, James (CB)	6-0/180	12-28-69	2	Clemson	D3/93	14/2
48	Washington, Lionel (CB)	6-0/185	10-21-60	12	Tulane	T-StL/87	16/16
	SPECIALISTS						
7	Gossett, Jeff (P)	6-2/195	1-25-57	13	Eastern Illinois	T-Hou/88	16/0
18	Jaeger, Jeff (K)	5-11/190	11-26-64	8	Washington	PlanB/89	16/0

*Not with Raiders in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

Chargers' offensive front must hold the line in '94

By JAY PARIS
North County Blade-Citizen

One man holds the key to the San Diego Chargers' hopes of recapturing the AFC West after their mediocre 1993 season.

Stan Humphries? No. Junior Seau? Naw. Natrone Means? Nope.

Would you believe Carl Mauck?

Mauck is the Chargers' offensive-line coach, and it's a good thing the former NFL center has broad shoulders. There's a lot riding on them.

San Diego's offensive line was shakier than Southern California's underbelly last season as injuries, too many young players and a lack of stability proved costly. Then, in the off-season, starting left guard Mike Zandofsky signed with the Atlanta Falcons as a free agent. That came after another lineman, the rapidly improving Eric Moten, suffered a severe knee injury just four games into last season. Moten remains questionable for 1994.

Any wonder, then, why San Diego used its first two draft picks to take Arkansas guard Isaac Davis and UCLA tackle Vaughn Parker?

The Chargers' marquee players, of course, will need to produce for the team to have any chance of returning to the playoffs. But their postseason dreams begin with Mauck's ability to keep the offensive line in one piece.

COACHING

Bobby Ross didn't take too kindly to the Chargers' failure last year to prove that their division-winning 1992 season wasn't a fluke. He watched his sputtering offense score just 20 points per game and his secondary compile the league's worst numbers in pass defense.

Ross' determination to recapture a playoff berth is a positive for the Chargers, who don't mind giving the necessary effort for a coach whose down-home demeanor they like and whose get-it-done work ethic they respect.

On a team whose roster has been reshuffled quite a bit, it should come as no surprise that the coaching staff also has undergone change. Ralph Friedgen won a power struggle with Jack Reilly to become offensive coordinator, and Willie Shaw, Dwain Painter, Dennis Murphy and Frank Falks have been added as assistants.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Stan Humphries was anything but "The Man" for the Chargers last season, when he was unable to follow through on his fine '92 season. An injury to his right shoulder suffered in the preseason robbed him of his ability to throw the underneath pass and hindered his ability to produce big plays. Humphries was replaced by John Friesz for six games at midseason but regained the starting job for San Diego's final six games.

Gale Gilbert, who went to the last four Super Bowls with Buffalo, will be the No. 2 quarterback. Gilbert, however, is still a bit of a mystery. He seems to have the arm and smarts but hasn't taken a snap in a regular-season game since 1990 and has played in only 26 games in an NFL career that began in 1985.

Trent Green remains the third quarterback and San Diego's chief clipboard operator. He possesses a live arm and the Chargers like his progress, but he's not a threat to supplant Gilbert.

RUNNING BACKS—When Marion Butts' backside hit the Chargers' exit door, many were shocked. The bruising Butts had been the heart and soul of the running game over the last five seasons. The NFL's salary cap, however, prevented him from staying, so the torch has been passed to Natrone Means.

KEVIN REECE

Ronnie Harmon does much of his damage out of the backfield as a receiver, especially in third-down situations.

Means is coming off a spectacular rookie season that included a team-high eight touchdowns. He displayed an enticing blend of power and speed, and the Chargers are confident he can handle an increased load with Butts gone. But the beefy Means needs to play at about 240 pounds, not the soft 260 he displayed at mini-camp when he answered to the nickname "Weighs and Means."

Ronnie Harmon is another player whose number will be called more this year, but Harmon does much of his damage out of the backfield as a receiver, especially in third-

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: If quarterback Stan Humphries stays healthy and running back Natrone Means builds on his impressive rookie season, the Chargers will have a diverse and potent offense. With linebacker Junior Seau and end Leslie O'Neal spearheading an upgraded defense, the Chargers should have one of the NFL's best defensive units, especially against the run.

Weaknesses: Even a few injuries on the offensive line would be disastrous. This group is thin and was among the reasons for the Chargers' 8-8 record. New personnel has been brought in to try to shore up the NFL's worst-ranked pass defense of 1993. The Chargers are gambling that receiver Vance Johnson will be as good as the departed Anthony Miller.

Keys to success: The Chargers, historically a woeful team in September, need to break that trend and get off to a good start. The offensive line must do a better job of protecting Humphries. The secondary must rebound from an embarrassing 1993 performance.

That's a fact: Leslie O'Neal and Courtney Hall are the only current Chargers who were on the team when Bobby Beathard became general manager in January 1990.

Coach Bobby Ross says: "I think we have helped ourself quite a bit defensively with the acquisitions of Reuben Davis, David Griggs, Dwayne Harper . . . and it's been about an even tradeoff with Dennis Gibson (replacing departed middle linebacker Gary Plummer). We have to improve our pass defense; we were dead last. We could go to 27th and improve, but I hope we make a bigger improvement than that."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	V. Johnson	Martin	Seay
LT	Swayne	Jonassen	
LG	Cocozzo	Whitley	Smoot
C	Hall	Whitley	
RG	Milinichik	I. Davis	
RT	Brock	Jonassen	Parker
TE	Young	May	Laing
WR	Jefferson	Barnes	Ch. Thomas
QB	Humphries	Gilbert	Green
H-B	Pupunu	Dyal	
RB	Means	Harmon	Bieniemy

DEFENSE

LE	Mims	R. Johnson	Stanley
LT	Lee	White	
RT	R. Davis	White	
RE	O'Neal	R. Johnson	Stanley
SLB	Griggs	Crews	
MLB	Gibson	Miller	
WLB	Seau	Bush	
LCB	Harper	Vanhorse	Clark
RCB	Gordon	Vanhorse	
SS	Carrington	Fuller	
FS	Richard	Castle	

SPECIALISTS

K	Carney	KR	Dunson, Bieniemy
P	Sullivan	PR	Coleman, Bieniemy

down situations. He needs to prove he's more than a specialist and worth the $1.5 million he'll be paid this year.

The Chargers are hoping Eric Bieniemy, should he re-sign with the team, will finally produce. General Manager Bobby Beathard took some heat when he used a second-round draft pick on Bieniemy three years ago and, so far, there has been little payoff. Ross lost confidence in Bieniemy after he made a crucial fumble in an early-season loss at Denver last year, a miscue that seemed to destroy Bieniemy's confidence, too.

WIDE RECEIVERS—You'll need a program to keep track of all the changes here.

Gone is Anthony Miller, a four-time Pro Bowler now with Denver. Also gone is Nate Lewis, a dependable player who started in 29 of 58 games over the last four years. Arriving are former Bronco Vance Johnson and Dolphins reject Tony Martin.

Johnson, with a new-and-improved attitude, wants to prove he's everything Miller was. But injuries have hampered him over the last three years, and Johnson has caught only 81 passes over that span. He's 31, and you have to wonder how much Johnson has left. Still, Johnson and Humphries seemed to click in mini-camp, so he'll likely be the team's go-to receiver. The Chargers, with fingers crossed, are banking on it.

Martin broke free from a Miami vise that kept him out of the starting lineup. Beathard, who loves Martin's speed, is bewildered as to why he wasn't used more in the Dolphins' pass-happy system. Maybe the Chargers will find out. Or maybe—as when Humphries escaped from Washington in 1992—a change of scenery will do him good.

Shawn Jefferson, another receiver the Chargers hope hasn't reached his potential, gets his chance to shine this year with Miller and Lewis gone. He could surprise and have a big year—just in time for him to cash in as a free agent.

Johnnie Barnes, a former track star with a heavy dose of toughness, and Mark Seay or Chris Thomas also could contribute as pass receivers. Alfred Pupunu, who takes over for Derrick Walker at H-back, has good hands and knows what to do after catching a pass. Tight end Duane Young will be used mostly as a blocker.

LINEMEN—The good news is center Courtney Hall and left tackle Harry Swayne still have lightning bolts on their helmets. The bad news is they are the only starting linemen remaining from just two seasons ago.

Hall is on the verge of making the Pro Bowl. He's reliable, smart, quick, and strong, and he anchors the line with his quiet leadership. Swayne is eager for the '94 season to start so he can distance himself from '93, when shoulder and eye injuries sidelined him for five games.

Joe Cocozzo likely will start alongside Swayne at guard. Injuries rushed Cocozzo's indoctrination to the NFL last year, but the rookie held his own. With Moten doubtful, Cocozzo will be looked upon to play every down. It's a hearty request, but one he could fulfill.

Joe Milinichik is penciled in at right guard, but his knees are a big worry. He underwent two knee surgeries last season that kept him out of six games, and rookie Isaac Davis could be asked to contribute soon if Milinichik's knees act up again.

1994 SAN DIEGO CHARGERS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
5	Gilbert, Gale	6-3/209	12-20-61	9	California	FA/94	*1/0
7	Green, Trent	6-3/211	7-9-70	2	Indiana	D8/93	0/0
12	Humphries, Stan	6-2/223	4-14-65	6	Northeast Louisiana	T-Was/92	12/10
	RUNNING BACKS						
23	Dunson, Walter (KR)	5-9/173	10-24-70	2	Middle Tennessee State	D5/93	0/0
33	Harmon, Ronnie	5-11/207	5-7-64	9	Iowa	PlanB/90	16/1
20	Means, Natrone	5-10/245	4-26-72	2	North Carolina	D2/93	16/0
45	Vinson, Tony	6-1/229	3-13-71	R	Towson State	D5/94	—
	RECEIVERS						
85	Barnes, Johnnie	6-1/180	7-21-68	3	Hampton (Va.)	D9/92	14/0
83	Coleman, Andre (PR)	5-9/165	1-18-71	R	Kansas State	D3/94	—
84	Dyal, Mike (H-B)	6-2/240	5-20-66	7	Texas A&I	FA/93	10/0
80	Jefferson, Shawn	5-11/172	2-22-69	4	Central Florida	T-Hou/91	16/4
89	Johnson, Vance	5-11/180	3-13-63	10	Arizona	FA/94	10/8
46	Laing, Aaron (TE)	6-3/264	7-19-71	R	New Mexico State	D5/94	—
81	Martin, Tony	6-0/181	9-5-65	5	Mesa State (Colo.)	T-Mia/94	*12/0
88	May, Deems (TE)	6-4/263	3-6-69	3	North Carolina	D7/92	15/1
86	Pupunu, Alfred (H-B)	6-2/255	10-17-69	3	Weber State	W-KC/92	16/7
82	Seay, Mark	6-0/175	4-11-67	2	Long Beach State	W-SF/93	1/0
87	Young, Duane (TE)	6-1/270	5-29-68	4	Michigan State	D5/91	16/15
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
67	Brock, Stan (T)	6-6/295	6-8-58	15	Colorado	FA/93	16/16
68	Cocozzo, Joe (G)	6-4/300	8-7-70	2	Michigan	D3/93	16/5
73	Davis, Isaac (G)	6-3/325	4-8-72	R	Arkansas	D2/94	—
53	Hall, Courtney (C/G)	6-2/281	8-26-68	6	Rice	D2/89	16/16
74	Jonassen, Eric (T)	6-5/310	8-16-68	3	Bloomsburg (Pa.).	D5/92	16/2
71	Milinichik, Joe (G)	6-5/300	3-30-63	9	North Carolina State	FA/93	10/10
77	Moten, Eric (G/T)	6-2/306	4-11-68	4	Michigan State	D2/91	4/4
70	Parker, Vaughn (G/T)	6-3/296	6-5-71	R	UCLA	D2/94	—
63	Smoot, Raymond (G/T)	6-4/305	7-24-70	1	Lousiana State	FA/93	2/0
72	Swayne, Harry (T)	6-5/295	2-2-65	8	Rutgers	PlanB/91	11/11
64	Whitley, Curtis (C/G)	6-1/285	5-10-69	3	Clemson	D5/92	15/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
93	Davis, Reuben (T)	6-5/340	5-7-65	7	North Carolina	FA/94	*16/15
99	Johnson, Raylee (E)	6-3/245	6-1-70	2	Arkansas	D4/93	9/0
97	Krein, Darren (E)	6-4/258	7-7-71	R	Miami (Fla.)	D5/94	—
98	Lee, Shawn (T)	6-2/300	10-24-66	7	North Alabama	FA/92	16/15
94	Mims, Chris (E)	6-5/290	9-29-70	3	Tennessee	D1/92	16/7
91	O'Neal, Leslie (E)	6-4/265	5-7-64	9	Oklahoma State	D1/86	16/16
90	White, Reggie (T)	6-4/300	3-22-70	3	North Carolina A&T	D6/92	8/0
	LINEBACKERS						
96	Beehn, Zane	6-4/252	9-28-71	R	Kentucky	D7/94	—
58	Bush, Lewis	6-2/245	12-2-69	2	Washington State	D4/93	16/0
51	Crews, Terry	6-2/245	7-30-68	3	Western Michigan	FA/94	10/0
56	Gibson, Dennis	6-2/240	2-8-64	8	Iowa State	FA/94	*15/15
92	Griggs, David	6-3/250	2-5-67	6	Virginia	FA/94	*9/0
54	Miller, Doug	6-3/232	10-29-69	2	South Dakota State	D7/93	8/0
55	Seau, Junior	6-3/250	1-19-69	5	Southern California	D1/90	16/16
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
22	Byrd, Gill (CB/S)	5-11/198	2-20-61	12	San Jose State	D1/83	0/0
29	Carrington, Darren (S)	6-2/200	10-10-66	6	Northern Arizona	FA/91	16/14
44	Castle, Eric (S)	6-3/212	3-15-70	2	Oregon	D6/93	5/0
31	Clark, Willie (CB)	5-10/186	1-6-72	R	Notre Dame	D3/94	—
40	Fuller, James (S)	6-0/208	8-5-69	3	Portland (Ore.) State	D8/92	10/0
21	Gordon, Darrien (CB)	5-11/182	11-14-70	2	Stanford	D1/93	16/7
28	Harper, Dwayne (CB)	5-11/175	3-29-66	7	South Carolina State	FA/94	*14/14
37	Harrison, Rodney (S)	6-0/201	12-15-72	R	Western Illinois	D5/94	—
24	Richard, Stanley (S)	6-2/197	10-21-67	4	Texas	D1/91	16/16
25	Vanhorse, Sean (CB)	5-10/180	7-22-68	5	Howard	PlanB/92	15/10
	SPECIALISTS						
3	Carney, John (K)	5-11/170	4-20-64	5	Notre Dame	FA/90	16/0
1	Sullivan, Kent (P)	6-0/202	5-15-64	2	California Lutheran	FA/94	3/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Todd Beeching, T; Darren Bennett, P; Blaine Berger, DE; David Binn, TE; Eric Boles, TE; Brad Breedlove, WR; Jeff Brohm, QB; Henry Caldwell, RB; Grant Carter, LB; Herschel Currie, CB; Greg Engel, C; Ernest Greene, T; James Gregory, DT; Shawn Hocker, G; Mike Hollis, K; Chris Johnson, S; Tom Johnson, LB; Greg Lane, CB; Juan Long, LB; Scott McAlister, P; Shannon Mitchell, TE; Jose Munoz, G; Kevin Ramaekers, DT; Ron Rivers, RB; Chris Rodahaffer, T; Sean Snyder, P; Israel Stanley, DE; Chris Thomas, WR; Cornell Thomas, DE; Sean Thomas, CB; Chris Thompson, LB; Jim Ward, DT; Darrius Watson, S; Patrick Wilbert, DT; Michael Williams, DB; Earnest Wyatt, WR.
*Not with Chargers in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

Stan Brock will start at right tackle, the same job he has held for the last 14 NFL seasons. The younger Chargers appreciate the 36-year-old's sage advice, but can Brock be counted on for 16 regular-season games after five preseason contests? If Brock tires—his knees must be monitored—Eric Jonassen or rookie Vaughn Parker could step in.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Chargers lost two starters here—end Burt Grossman went to Philadelphia and tackle Blaise Winter to Tampa Bay—but it could be for the better. Chris Mims, who has 17 sacks in two seasons as a part-timer, will replace Grossman; Reuben Davis, a 6-foot-5, 340-pound free agent from Arizona, will take Winter's spot.

Any line that includes Leslie O'Neal must be reckoned with. O'Neal went to his fourth Pro Bowl last season and still ranks among the top pass rushers in the game. His 29 sacks over the last two seasons rank second in the league to Kansas City's Neil Smith (29½).

Shawn Lee, another member of the 300-pound club, is a worthy complement to

Continued

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Bobby Ross.
Assistant coaches: • Bill Arnsparger (defensive coordinator) • Sylvester Croom (offensive backs) • John Dunn (strength and conditioning) • Frank Falks (tight ends/H-backs) • Ralph Friedgen (offensive coordinator) • Stan Kwan (offense and special-teams assistant) • Dale Lindsey (linebackers) • Carl Mauck (offensive line) • John Misciagna (quality control) • Chip Morton (strength and conditioning assistant) • Dennis Murphy (defensive line) •Kevin O'Dea (defense assistant) • Dwain Painter (quarterbacks/passing-game coordinator) • Chuck Priefer (special teams) • Willie Shaw (secondary) • Jerry Sullivan (wide receivers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 8-8 (4th in AFC West); 3-5 in division; 6-6 in conference; 4-4 at home; 4-4 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Ross' regular-season record: 19-13 in two seasons with Chargers.
Ross' postseason record: 2-2 in two playoffs with Chargers.
Team record last five years: 35-45 (.438, ranks 18th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	9	14
Rushing offense	5	10
Passing offense	11	17
Scoring offense	6	10
Total defense	9	18
Rushing defense	2	2
Passing defense	14	28
Scoring defense	7	T12
Takeaways	7	T9
Giveaways	1	2
Turnover differential	1	1
Sacks	T10	T21
Sacks allowed	6	9

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
2nd	Isaac Davis	G	Arkansas
2nd	Vaughn Parker	G/T	UCLA
3rd	Andre Coleman	WR	Kansas State
3rd	Willie Clark	CB	Notre Dame
5th	Aaron Laing	TE	New Mexico State
5th	Rodney Harrison	S	Western Illinois
5th	Darren Krein	DE	Miami (Fla.)
5th	Tony Vinson	RB	Towson State
7th	Zane Beehn	LB	Kentucky

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Denver	6:00
Sept.	11	CINCINNATI	1:00
Sept.	18	at Seattle	1:00
Sept.	25	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Oct.	2	Open date	
Oct.	9	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Oct.	16	at New Orleans	3:00
Oct.	23	DENVER	1:00
Oct.	30	SEATTLE	1:00
Nov.	6	at Atlanta	1:00
Nov.	13	at Kansas City	12:00
Nov.	20	at New England	1:00
Nov.	27	L.A. RAMS	1:00
Dec.	5	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	6:00
Dec.	11	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Dec.	18	at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Dec.	24	PITTSBURGH (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	SEATTLE	W	18-12
Sept.	12	at Denver	L	17-34
Sept.	19	HOUSTON	W	18-17
Sept.	26	Open date		
Oct.	3	at Seattle	L	14-31
Oct.	10	at Pittsburgh	L	3-16
Oct.	17	KANSAS CITY	L	14-17
Oct.	24	Open date		
Oct.	31	at L.A. Raiders	W	30-23
Nov.	7	at Minnesota	W	30-17
Nov.	14	CHICAGO	L	13-16
Nov.	21	L.A. RAIDERS	L	7-12
Nov.	29	at Indianapolis	W	31-0
Dec.	5	DENVER	W	13-10
Dec.	12	GREEN BAY	L	13-20
Dec.	19	at Kansas City	L	24-28
Dec.	27	MIAMI	W	45-20
Jan.	2	at Tampa Bay	W	32-17

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium (60,789, grass) • Ticket information: 619-280-2121; 619-563-8281 • Flagship radio station: XTRA, 690 AM • Training site: UC San Diego, La Jolla, Calif.; 619-280-2111.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that no Charger quarterback threw for 300 yards in a game last season? In 1980, Dan Fouts did it eight times.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
John Carney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	7	2	31	—	—
Pat Carter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ronnie Harmon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Stan Humphries	2	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Shawn Jefferson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Vance Johnson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Tony Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Natrone Means	—	—	—	—	6	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Duane Young	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Reuben Davis in the middle.

LINEBACKERS—Junior Seau is coming off a season that most NFL linebackers would be proud of. But for Seau, who qualified for his third straight Pro Bowl, it didn't measure up to his usual standards. He was distracted by some off-the-field issues that shouldn't be a burden this year.

The other two linebacking jobs will be filled by newcomers—Dennis Gibson in the middle and David Griggs on the strongside. Gibson, a seven-year starter in Detroit, is a perfect replacement for the departed Gary Plummer. He's a cerebral player who excels at stopping the run and isn't allergic to sweat.

Griggs figures to do his job—take on tight ends—with a smile.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—After the Chargers finished last season with the worst pass defense in the league, Beathard answered Ross' plea by acquiring veteran Dwayne Harper, the former Seattle Seahawk whom they hope will help stabilize things a bit on the corner.

Opposite Harper is Darrien Gordon, the Chargers' top draft pick of 1993. Gordon, who improved as his rookie season wore on, won a starting job late in the year and appeared more comfortable as he gained more experience.

Free safety Stanley Richard was so busy helping out cornerbacks Sean Vanhorse and Donald Frank last year that it hurt his own play. With the upgrades at cornerback this season, Richard can return to concentrating on his free-safety responsibilities.

Strong safety Darren Carrington is a ballhawk who has led the Chargers in interceptions the last two seasons.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Place-kicker John Carney is coming off a record-setting season and seems intent on proving that it wasn't a lark. He had two games in which he went 6-for-6 in field goals and established an NFL record with 29 in a row.

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

Despite making the Pro Bowl, Junior Seau wasn't pleased with his '93 performance.

Punter John Kidd wasn't invited back, so the Chargers are pinning their hopes there on Kent Sullivan, a journeyman who kicked for both the Chargers and Oilers last season. The Chargers think Sullivan is Kidd's equal, or at least close enough at his bargain rate.

The Chargers could try rookie Andre Coleman as a kick returner, but others certain to get extended tryouts are Walter Dunson and Bieniemy, should he re-sign with the team. Gordon is a fallback guy on punt returns should others falter in that role. ◆

Flores strengthens his strengths to boost Seahawks

By JOHN CLAYTON
Tacoma Morning News Tribune

After two seasons of finishing fifth in what probably is the National Football League's toughest division, the AFC West, the Seahawks are ready to start climbing the ladder. Because of massive turnover in San Diego, the Seahawks could move ahead of the Chargers into fourth place. Even third place is conceivable.

The Seahawks are helped by playing a fifth-place schedule. Opponents have a 124-132 record, third-easiest in the NFL. The Seahawks face non-division teams with winning records only twice.

Tom Flores, the coach and general manager, tried an interesting strategy to improve the squad. He upgraded good positions to make them very good. Cornerbacks Dwayne Harper and right tackle Andy Heck were good players, but the Seahawks allowed them to leave through free agency in order to sign two two-time Pro Bowlers away from the Bills—cornerback Nate Odomes and offensive tackle Howard Ballard.

The Seahawks repaired an aging, ineffective defensive line. First-round choice Sam Adams and former Patriots defensive end Brent Williams were brought in to rescue the Seahawks' 4-3, which struggled as Seattle's defense dropped to 23rd in the NFL. The defense should rebound to become one of the top 10. With a better defense, the offense, which still lacks speed at the receiver position, should be more effective.

PETE J. GROH

Strong safety Robert Blackmon has the ability to cover and hit.

COACHING

Tom Flores is patient; fans aren't. While Flores accepted the four-game improvement from the nightmarish 2-14 season in 1992, fans didn't buy it. To wit, the team has lost 10,000 off its annual season-ticket base of 62,000.

Flores must balance urgency with patience. Flores doesn't pressure his best players. Instead, he supports them and boosts their confidence. Left tackle Ray Roberts overcame a miserable rookie season thanks to the constant support of Flores and his staff.

His players respond by keeping together during the tough times. That is important when your team loses 24 games in two seasons. But panic could set in if the team doesn't win eight or nine games this season.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Rick Mirer was sacked 47 times and hit 69 times after releasing passes, and he ran the ball 68 times as a rookie last season. He injured an ankle, his back and his fingers. But he missed only 28 plays.

Mirer works best on the run. His strength is moving around and finding an open receiver. He has the ability to improvise that comes with the great quarterbacks. An example: To avoid shoulder dislocations while being hit, Mirer learned to scramble out of the pocket and discard short passes lefthanded.

For the Seahawks to improve, Mirer must stay healthy all season. Backup quarterback Dan McGwire hasn't shown he can stay healthy or direct an NFL offense successfully for longer than a quarter. Stan Gelbaugh has a knack for running a pro offense, but he hasn't won any NFL game he has started.

RUNNING BACKS—Flores made Chris Warren the featured back last season. He rushed for 1,072 yards in 14 games, missing the final two with a strained abdomen, and went to the Pro Bowl.

Now, Warren might be the only back. Fullback John L. Williams left to sign with the Steelers, so Warren will stay on the field on first, second and third downs. Replacing Williams as the third-down back was a natural—Warren has soft hands and better speed than Williams. But can he stay healthy long enough to catch the 70 passes a season that had been expected of Williams?

Warren is not a tough runner. He is a 225-pound, straight-ahead runner with speed and acceleration. The abdomen strain was War-

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The Seahawks have assembled an impressive core of starters. Defensive tackle Cortez Kennedy, free safety Eugene Robinson, cornerback Nate Odomes, halfback Chris Warren and right tackle Howard Ballard were Pro Bowlers last season. Quarterback Rick Mirer and defensive tackle Sam Adams are budding stars. Wide receiver Brian Blades is an 80-catch receiver on the fringe of the Pro Bowl.

Weaknesses: The Seahawks lack depth. Their backup linemen are unproven. Linebackers have trouble staying healthy. The lack of a proven third receiver could cause problems.

Keys to success: Mirer must stay healthy and learn to find the third read in passing situations. Defensive ends Brent Williams and Michael Sinclair must beat single blocking to prevent teams from ganging up on tackles Cortez Kennedy and Sam Adams. Guard Mitch Frerotte must not suffer a repeat of the neck injury that sidelined him last season.

That's a fact: The Seahawks have only 13 players remaining from the 1985 through '92 drafts. They aren't developing a strong talent base.

Coach Tom Flores says: "Right now, we are healthy, which is a plus. Mitch Frerotte is healthy. Losing Darrick Brilz has taken away some of our flexibility on the offensive line, but the way I look at the Andy Heck-Howard Ballard situation is that it is almost like a trade—you lose one and you get one. The same thing with Nate Odomes and Dwayne Harper."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Blades	R. Thomas	Bates
LT	Roberts	Keim	Shaw
LG	Frerotte	Blackshear	
C	Donaldson	Mawae	
RG	Hitchcock	Blackshear	Shaw
RT	Ballard	Keim	Shaw
TE	Edmunds	Green	Crumpler
WR	Martin	Barrett	T. Warren
QB	Mirer	McGwire	Gelbaugh
HB	C. Warren	Vaughn	L. Smith
FB	Johnson	L. Smith	Strong

DEFENSE

LE	Sinclair	McCrary	Edwards
LT	Adams	Nash	Edwards
RT	Kennedy	Nash	Rodgers
RE	B. Williams	McCrary	Edwards
ROLB	Porter	Brandon	Wells
MLB	Stephens	Spitulski	
LOLB	Wooden	Brandon	Wells
LCB	Odomes	Gray	
RCB	Hunter	Gray	
SS	Blackmon	Whigham	
FS	Robinson	McCloughan	

SPECIALISTS

K	Kasay	KR	Bates
P	Tuten	PR	Martin
			Vaughn
			McCloughan

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Tom Flores.

Assistant coaches: • Tommy Brasher (defensive line) • Bob Bratkowski (wide receivers) • Dave Brown (defensive coach) • Tom Catlin (quality control) • Larry Kennan (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks) • Arnie Matsumoto (staff assistant) • Paul Moyer (defensive backs) • Howard Mudd (offensive line) • Russ Purnell (tight ends/special teams) • Frank Raines (strength & conditioning) • Clarence Shelmon (running backs) • Rusty Tillman (defensive coordinator/linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 6-10 (5th in AFC West); 1-7 in division; 6-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 2-6 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Flores' regular-season record: 8-24 in two seasons with Seahawks; 91-77 overall in 11 NFL seasons with Seahawks and Oakland/Los Angeles Raiders.
Flores' postseason record: 8-3 in five playoffs with Raiders (2-0 in Super Bowls).
Team record last five years: 31-49 (.388, ranks 20th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	AFC	NFL
Total offense	13	23
Rushing offense	1	4
Passing offense	13	25
Scoring offense	10	19
Total defense	12	23
Rushing defense	8	13
Passing defense	12	26
Scoring defense	10	18
Takeaways	T5	T5
Giveaways	8	T14
Turnover differential	T6	T8
Sacks	6	13
Sacks allowed	T11	T24

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Sam Adams	DT	Texas A&M
2nd	Kevin Mawae	C	Louisiana State
3rd	Lamar Smith	RB/FB	Houston
4th	Larry Whigham	SS	Northeast Louisiana
7th	Carlester Crumpler	TE	East Carolina

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Washington	1:00
Sept.	11	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Sept.	18	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Sept.	25	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Oct.	2	at Indianapolis	12:00
Oct.	9	DENVER	1:00
Oct.	16	Open date	
Oct.	23	at Kansas City	12:00
Oct.	30	at San Diego	1:00
Nov.	6	CINCINNATI	1:00
Nov.	13	at Denver	2:00
Nov.	20	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Nov.	27	KANSAS CITY	1:00
Dec.	4	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Dec.	11	at Houston	3:00
Dec.	18	L.A. RAIDERS	5:00
Dec.	24	at Cleveland (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at San Diego	L	12-18
Sept.	12	L.A. RAIDERS	L	13-17
Sept.	19	at New England	W	17-14
Sept.	26	at Cincinnati	W	19-10
Oct.	3	SAN DIEGO	W	31-14
Oct.	10	Open date		
Oct.	17	at Detroit	L	10-30
Oct.	24	NEW ENGLAND	W	10-9
Oct.	31	at Denver	L	17-28
Nov.	7	at Houston	L	14-24
Nov.	14	CLEVELAND	W	22-5
Nov.	21	Open date		
Nov.	28	DENVER	L	9-17
Dec.	5	KANSAS CITY	L	16-31
Dec.	12	at L.A. Raiders	L	23-27
Dec.	19	PHOENIX (OT)	L	27-30
Dec.	26	PITTSBURGH	W	16-6
Jan.	2	at Kansas City	L	24-34

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Kingdome (66,400, artificial) • Ticket information: 206-827-9766 • Flagship radio station: KIRO, 710 AM • Training site: Seahawks Headquarters, Kirkland, Wash.; 206-827-9777.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that quarterback Rick Mirer set NFL rookie records for attempts (486), completions (274) and yards (2,833) last season? But the most amazing statistic is that he played in 991 of 1,019 offensive plays.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Robert Blackmon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brian Blades	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ferrell Edmunds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Paul Green	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tracy Johnson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
John Kasay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	4	3	29	—	—
Kelvin Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dan McGwire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rick Mirer	8	3	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Joe Nash	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nate Odomes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rod Stephens	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Jon Vaughn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chris Warren	—	—	—	—	4	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

ren's first serious NFL injury. It still bothered him in May's mini-camp. With Williams gone, Warren doesn't have the luxury of feeling pain.

Tracy Johnson replaces Williams at fullback. He is an overpowering blocker with limited running and receiving skills. Third-round choice Lamar Smith, a tough 5-foot-11, 230-pounder from Houston, could allow Warren to rest on some third-down and short-yardage situations.

RECEIVERS—Brian Blades thought it was tough coming back from injuries last season. Imagine how he will feel after spending the off-season battling for a salary equal to the top receivers in the AFC West (Anthony Miller and Tim Brown), and not getting it.

With always something to prove, Blades will fight for the tough receptions, take those difficult routes over the middle and block. The guy is a winner, but his lack of breakaway speed keeps him one step shy of the Pro Bowl and several hundred thousand dollars short of the $2.5 million contract.

Like Blades, Kelvin Martin is a possession receiver. Martin caught 57 passes and can expect more as Mirer learns the offense. If the Seahawks can develop a deep-threat third receiver, Martin and Blades might have easier jobs on passing downs.

That might take a year. Reggie Barrett, acquired in a trade with the Lions, doesn't have speed, but he is big at 6-3. Michael Bates and Terrence Warren are world-class sprinters but are entering just their second season. Robb Thomas is a possession receiver who can help on passing downs.

Though tight ends usually flourish in Flores' offenses, Ferrell Edmunds, Paul Green and rookie Carlester Crumpler have much to learn. The high-priced Edmunds has lost pass-catching skills but excels as a blocker. Green and Crumpler, a seventh-round choice, battle for a spot as the pass-catching tight end on third downs.

LINEMEN—Offensive line coach Howard Mudd starts training camp with five offensive linemen whose average weight is 305 pounds. The group includes 335-pound right tackle Ballard, 304-pound left tackle Ray Roberts and 300-pound center Ray Donaldson.

Mudd stresses power football. Donaldson, 35, reestablished himself as a legitimate NFL center after the Colts released him. He provided leadership and anchored a line that helped Seattle lead the AFC in rushing. Roberts erased the bad taste of a 17-sack rookie season and trimmed his sack total in half.

Ballard's study of film and raw power should blend nicely with right guard Bill Hitchcock, who lacks finesse but thrives on battling anyone in front of him.

The question mark is left guard. The Seahawks might have weakened the line slightly by letting left guard Darrick Brilz slip to the Bengals without replacement. Mitch Frerotte, a former Bill, missed last season with bone spurs in his neck. Though no operation was needed, his durability is in question. Jeff Blackshear might be too big. He reported to mini-camp weighing 345 pounds. At 310 pounds, he could do what Ballard does at right tackle.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Right tackle Cortez Kennedy was double-teamed every down last season, but Joe Nash, Jeff Bryant and Natu

ROB BROWN

Opponents could pay a steep price for double-teaming Cortez Kennedy this season.

Tuatagaloa couldn't take advantage of it. So, the Seahawks drafted Adams in the first round, signed Brent Williams as an unrestricted free agent and decided to use left end Michael Sinclair on every down.

Adams, who will play left tackle, has the quick moves and strength to beat centers if they cheat toward Kennedy's side. Sinclair, used as a third-down pass rusher, had eight sacks in eight games before suffering a season-ending injury. He has bulked up to 275 pounds so he can better defend against the run.

Williams was an eight-year starter for the Patriots. Despite being an undersized end in the Patriots' 3-4, Williams had three to seven sacks a season.

Nash will back up at tackle and teach Adams. If pass-rush help is needed, the Seahawks could go to young ends Antonio Edwards and Michael McCrary.

LINEBACKERS—Middle linebacker Rod Stephens should consider himself lucky. He will play behind Adams and Kennedy, so his path rarely will be impeded by stray blocking guards. Two-time Pro Bowl free safety Eugene Robinson predicts Stephens, who was third on the team with 105 tackles last season, could be the next Seahawks Pro Bowler.

Stephens is the only Seattle linebacker who hasn't had a major injury. Terry Wooden recovered from two knee operations in three seasons to reestablish himself as a strongside outside linebacker. Right outside linebacker Rufus Porter must recover from Achilles tendon surgery performed last November. Stephens' backup, Bob Spitulski, is coming off knee surgery.

If Porter struggles, expect David Brandon or Dean Wells to take over for him. Brandon is a well-chiseled linebacker with starting experience. Wells, a fourth-round choice a year ago, did well in nickel defenses.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—In Odomes and Patrick Hunter, the Seahawks have two of the best coverage cornerbacks in the AFC. But how long will they have Hunter? Three alcohol-related problems in the off-season make him a candidate for a minimum four-game suspension.

Should Hunter miss any time, Carlton Gray, a coverage fiend drafted in the second round in 1992, will become a starter. He intercepted three passes in the nickel in his first month last season before breaking his ankle.

Robinson, who intercepted nine passes last season, welcomes the addition of Odomes, who intercepted nine passes for Buffalo. Many consider Robinson one of the headiest free safeties in the game. Strong safety Robert Blackmon has the ability to cover and hit. The Seahawks found a valuable backup safety in Dave McCloughan.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker John Kasay made 23 of 28 field-goal attempts last season. Punter Rick Tuten had a 44.5-yard average and a 37.3 net. Michael Bates had 22 tackles in coverages and averaged 20.1 yards per kickoff return.

So, it seems strange that the Seahawks had relatively average league-wide stats. They finished 19th in punt coverage, 10th in kickoff coverage, 15th in punt returns and 17th in kickoff returns.

Part of the problem is depth. Thin drafts have deprived the coverage units of quality tacklers. Too often, the Seahawks have been forced to use players in their 30s on coverage teams. ◆

1994 SEATTLE SEAHAWKS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
18	Gelbaugh, Stan	6-3/207	12-4-62	7	Maryland	PlanB/93	1/0
7	Graham, Jeff	6-5/220	2-5-66	4	Long Beach State	FA/92	0/0
10	McGwire, Dan	6-8/239	12-18-67	4	San Diego State	D1/91	2/0
3	Mirer, Rick	6-2/216	3-3-70	2	Notre Dame	D1/93	16/16
	RUNNING BACKS						
43	Johnson, Tracy (FB)	6-0/230	11-29-66	6	Clemson	PlanB/92	16/1
36	Smith, Lamar (FB)	5-11/230	11-29-70	R	Houston	D3/94	—
22	Vaughn, Jon (KR)	5-9/203	3-12-70	4	Michigan	T-NE/93	16/2
42	Warren, Chris	6-2/225	1-24-67	5	Ferrum (Va.)	D4/90	14/14
	RECEIVERS						
	Barrett, Reggie	6-3/215	8/14/69	4	Texas-El Paso	T-Det/94	0/0
81	Bates, Michael (KR)	5-10/189	12-19-69	2	Arizona	D6/92	16/1
89	Blades, Brian	5-11/189	7-24-65	7	Miami (Fla.)	D2/88	16/14
48	Crumpler, Carlester (TE)	6-6/255	9-5-71	R	East Carolina	D7/94	—
82	Edmunds, Ferrell (TE)	6-6/254	4-16-65	7	Maryland	FA/93	16/16
87	Green, Paul (TE)	6-3/230	10-8-66	3	Southern California	FA/92	15/8
83	Junkin, Trey (TE)	6-2/237	1-23-61	12	Louisiana Tech	FA/90	16/1
84	Martin, Kelvin (PR)	5-9/162	5-14-65	8	Boston College	FA/93	16/14
85	Thomas, Doug	5-10/178	9-18-69	4	Clemson	D2/91	16/0
86	Thomas, Robb	5-11/175	3-29-66	6	Oregon State	FA/92	16/0
88	Warren, Terrence	6-1/200	8-2-69	2	Hampton (Va.)	D5/93	2/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
75	Ballard, Howard (T)	6-6/335	11-3-63	7	Alabama A&M	FA/94	*16/16
69	Blackshear, Jeff (G)	6-6/315	3-29-69	2	Northeast Louisiana	D8/93	15/2
53	Donaldson, Ray (C)	6-3/300	5-18-58	15	Georgia	FA/93	16/16
59	Frerotte, Mitch (G)	6-3/286	3-30-65	6	Penn State	FA/93	0/0
76	Hitchcock, Bill (G)	6-6/291	8-26-65	4	Purdue	FA/91	14/14
78	Keim, Mike (T)	6-7/301	11-12-65	3	Brigham Young	FA/92	3/0
52	Mawae, Kevin (C)	6-4/288	1-23-71	R	Louisiana State	D2/94	—
73	Roberts, Ray (T)	6-6/304	6-3-69	3	Virginia	D1/92	16/16
56	Tofflemire, Joe (C)	6-3/273	7-7-65	6	Arizona	D2/89	0/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
68	Adams, Sam (T)	6-3/285	6-13-73	R	Texas A&M	D1/94	—
77	Bryant, Jeff (E)	6-5/281	5-22-60	13	Clemson	D1/82	16/15
67	Edwards, Antonio (E/T)	6-3/270	3-10-70	2	Valdosta (Ga.) State	D8/93	9/0
96	Kennedy, Cortez (T)	6-3/293	8-23-68	5	Miami (Fla.)	D1/90	16/16
92	McCrary, Michael (E)	6-4/250	7-7-70	2	Wake Forest	D7/93	15/0
72	Nash, Joe (T)	6-3/278	10-11-60	13	Boston College	FA/82	16/16
91	Rodgers, Tyrone (T)	6-3/266	4-27-69	3	Washington	FA/92	16/0
70	Sinclair, Michael (E)	6-4/275	1-31-68	3	Eastern New Mexico	D6/91	9/1
99	Tuatagaloa, Natu (E)	6-4/274	5-25-66	6	California	FA/92	16/15
	Williams, Brent (E)	6-4/275	10-23-64	9	Toledo	FA/94	*13/2
	LINEBACKERS						
51	Brandon, David	6-4/230	2-9-65	8	Memphis State	FA/93	13/3
50	Davis, Anthony	6-0/231	3-7-69	2	Utah	FA/92	10/0
93	Junior, E.J.	6-3/242	12-8-59	14	Alabama	FA/92	4/0
98	Murphy, Kevin	6-2/235	9-8-63	9	Oklahoma	FA/93	14/10
97	Porter, Rufus	6-1/227	5-18-65	7	Southern (La.)	FA/88	7/6
58	Spitulski, Bob	6-3/235	9-10-69	3	Central Florida	D3/92	6/0
94	Stephens, Rod	6-1/237	6-14-66	6	Georgia Tech	FA/90	13/13
95	Wells, Dean	6-3/238	7-20-70	2	Kentucky	D4/93	14/1
90	Wooden, Terry	6-3/239	1-14-67	5	Syracuse	D2/90	16/16
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
39	Allred, Brian (CB)	5-10/175	3-16-69	2	Sacramento State	FA/93	4/0
25	Blackmon, Robert (S)	6-0/197	5-12-67	5	Baylor	D2/90	16/16
26	Gray, Carlton (CB)	6-0/191	6-26-71	2	UCLA	D2/93	10/2
27	Hunter, Patrick (CB)	5-11/186	10-24-64	9	Nevada	D3/86	15/15
44	McCloughan, Dave (S/PR)	6-1/185	11-20-66	4	Colorado	T-GB/93	15/1
37	Odomes, Nate (CB)	5-10/188	8-25-65	8	Wisconsin	FA/94	*16/15
41	Robinson, Eugene (S)	6-0/191	5-28-63	10 0	Colgate	FA/85	16/16
21	Robinson, Rafael (S)	5-11/200	6-19-69	3	Wisconsin	FA/92	16/1
23	Whigham, Larry (S)	6-2/202	6-23-72	R	Northeast Louisiana	D4/94	—
	SPECIALISTS						
4	Kasay, John (K)	5-10/189	10-27-69	4	Georgia	D4/94	16/0
14	Tuten, Rick (P)	6-2/218	1-5-65	6	Florida State	FA/91	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
James Atkins, G; Jason Atkinson, LB; Reggie Barrett, WR; Jay Bellamy, S; Steve Bryant, LB; Hillary Butler, LB; Marcus Carter, WR; Jason Childs, T; Jed DeVries, T; Steve Gordon, C; Bobby Hamilton, DE; Mike Kegarise, T; Scott Lockwood, RB; Curtis McDaniel, DT; James McKnight, WR; Stacy Seegars, G; Deen Shamsid, RB; Rickie Shaw, G/T; Mack Strong, FB; Glenn Tinner, G; Orlando Watters, CB; Matt Werner, DT; Rick Wood, FB.
*Not with Seahawks in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SCOUTING THE NFC

49ers are ready to seize command in NFC

By PHIL ANASTASIA
Camden Courier-Post

Dynasties crumble from within. Greed, complacency and the struggle for a bigger share of the spoils of victory usually pose greater threats than any outside army.

Take the Dallas Cowboys. After beating the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowl for the second straight season, Dallas looked primed to continue as league champion. And why not. This team was young, deep and talented.

But just two months later, Dallas' empire began cracking. A dispute between the Cowboys' coach, Jimmy Johnson, and Owner Jerry Jones led to an ugly power struggle and subsequent breakup of the most successful two-man management team in the NFL. Suddenly, the gates to the Cowboys' castle were open.

Enter the San Francisco 49ers.

With Dallas in turmoil, San Francisco looks like the team most capable of seizing command of the NFC. Actually, it would be a return to glory for the 49ers, who won four Super Bowls in the 1980s but lost the conference title game to the Cowboys in each of the last two seasons.

The 49ers still have the NFL's most prolific offense, featuring quarterback Steve Young, running back Ricky Watters, receiver Jerry Rice and a great line. But the key for San Francisco is an improved defense. The 49ers made a doubly effective move (helping themselves, hurting the Cowboys) by signing Dallas free-agent linebacker Ken Norton. Then they drafted Notre Dame defensive tackle Bryant Young, who will team with nose tackle Dana Stubblefield, the 1993 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year. Those two will be joined up front by Chicago free agent Richard Dent.

Add in safeties Tim McDonald and Merton Hanks, who are poised to enjoy strong seasons, and the result is a San Francisco team that is prepared to seize the Cowboys' crown.

PRO BOWL PICKS

Quarterback: Steve Young, 49ers. Troy Aikman will miss Norv Turner, while Young will continue to emerge from Joe Montana's shadow.

Running backs: Emmitt Smith, Cowboys, and Barry Sanders, Lions. The unstoppable Smith won't be as bothered as some others by Dallas' upheaval. Detroit may have signed quarterback Scott Mitchell, but Sanders is still the Motor City's main man.

Dana Stubblefield is part of what should be a good 49er defense.

Wide receivers: Sterling Sharpe, Packers, and Jerry Rice, 49ers. Each plays in the same type of system, and each makes the most of his chances.

Tight end: Jackie Harris, Packers. Injuries slowed him last year, but he's on the verge of a breakthrough season.

Center: Ed Cunningham, Cardinals. He showed signs of stardom in '93, when he helped Ron Moore rush for over 1,000 yards.

Offensive guards: Randall McDaniel, Vikings, and Nate Newton, Cowboys. McDaniel might be the NFL's most explosive lineman. Newton keeps improving.

Offensive tackles: Erik Williams, Cowboys, and Jim Lachey, Redskins. Williams was one of Jimmy Johnson's best draft picks. Lachey should rebound from a knee injury and reclaim his place as the NFC's best left tackle.

Defensive tackle: Sean Gilbert, Rams. He's the foundation of the Rams' rebuilding program. Look for Arizona's Eric Swann to excel, too.

Defensive ends: Clyde Simmons, Cardinals, and Reggie White, Packers. Warm weather, a grass field and Buddy Ryan will turn Simmons back into a 15-sack man. The presence of Sean Jones will increase White's productivity.

Outside linebackers: Seth Joyner, Cardinals, and Corey Miller, Giants. Like Simmons, Joyner will find new life in the Arizona sun. Miller is New York's big-play man on defense.

Inside linebackers: Ken Norton, 49ers, and Byron Evans, Eagles. Norton's presence will help San Francisco get back to the Super Bowl. Evans is ready to seize the spotlight now that Joyner and Simmons have left town.

Cornerbacks: Eric Allen, Eagles, and Kevin Smith, Cowboys. Allen is simply the best in the conference, as evidenced by his four interception returns for TDs in 1993. Smith is an emerging star.

Safeties: Darren Woodson, Cowboys, and Merton Hanks, 49ers. Woodson runs like a cornerback and hits like a linebacker. Hanks is a converted cornerback who is ready to burst into prominence.

Place-kicker: Chris Jacke, Packers. His final numbers might not be the best because of the Wisconsin weather, but he'll make the clutch kicks.

Punter: Jeff Feagles, Cardinals. The warm weather will agree with the Scottsdale, Ariz., native.

Return specialist: Kevin Williams, Cowboys. He has speed, moves and confidence. If he avoids fumbles, watch out.

AWARD WINNERS

Offensive Player of the Year: Steve Young, 49ers. An improved defense will ease the pressure on him and allow the lefthander to gamble less.

Defensive Player of the Year: Seth Joyner, Cardinals. He's determined to show the Eagles they made a mistake by letting him leave.

Rookie of the Year: Heath Shuler, Redskins. He has the perfect coach (Norv Turner) and a good offensive line to protect him.

Comeback Player of the Year: Randall Cunningham, Eagles. He'll post monster numbers after missing most of 1993 with a fractured left leg.

Coach of the Year: Mike Holmgren, Packers. With a consistent Brett Favre, his team will win the NFC Central and advance far in the playoffs. ◆

The Sporting News PREDICTIONS

Based on a poll of THE SPORTING NEWS' staff.

NFC EAST

1. **Dallas:** No longer a dynasty, but there's still plenty of talent.
2. **N.Y. Giants:** But only if Phil Simms and Rodney Hampton stay healthy.
3. **Arizona:** Buddy Ryan is back on the attack.
4. **Philadelphia:** Free-agent losses will ground the Eagles.
5. **Washington:** Heath Shuler is a good building block.

NFC CENTRAL

1. **Green Bay:** It's time for Brett Favre to emerge as a star.
2. **Minnesota:** Lots of talent, but the revolving door at quarterback is troubling.
3. **Detroit:** Lions are counting heavily on an unproven quarterback.
4. **Chicago:** Dave Wannstedt has this team on the rise.
5. **Tampa Bay:** Is Sam Wyche grooming Trent Dilfer for the next coach?

NFC WEST

1. **San Francisco:** An improved defense augments a great offense.
2. **New Orleans:** Young players must step up to replace veterans.
3. **Atlanta:** Jeff George can no longer blame Indianapolis' fans.
4. **L.A. Rams:** The Rams won't be bland if Chris Miller is healthy.

NFC CHAMPION: SAN FRANCISCO

Ryan's plans for Cardinals include winning—now

By BOB McMANAMAN
Arizona Republic

When Bill Bidwill decided to change the name of the Phoenix Cardinals to the Arizona Cardinals, he should have commissioned an artist to change the expression of that rather staid-looking bird on the sides of the helmets, too.

Give him a snarl. Show him gritting his teeth. Heck, show him *missing* a few teeth. It's time to give that bird an attitude now that Mr. Attitude himself, Buddy Ryan, is patrolling the sidelines in the Valley of the Sun, the site of Super Bowl XXX.

Ryan, hired in February to replace Joe Bugel as coach and Larry Wilson as general manager, had his troops foaming at the mouth even before the team's first mini-camp in March.

"It's going to be a living nightmare for quarterbacks when they play us from now on," defensive tackle Eric Swann said. "They're going to get hit and hit hard. I feel sorry for guys like Troy Aikman and all these big-time quarterbacks throughout the league, because we're going to be sending them a strong message that we're coming full-throttle."

Ryan and the Cardinals are bound to shake things up in the NFC East. They're already talking about dethroning the Cowboys and establishing the best and most-feared defense in the league. The additions of linebacker Seth Joyner and defensive end Clyde Simmons, both free-agent signees late of Philadelphia, has given them a huge head start.

The Cardinals, of course, haven't had a winning season in 10 years and haven't won a playoff game since 1947. But that's ancient history, according to Ryan.

"Hey, I came here to win now," he said. "And that's what we're going to do. We're here to bring a Super Bowl to this town."

He wasn't talking about hosting one, either.

COACHING

Ryan, defensive coordinator in Houston last season, is returning to the head-coaching ranks after a three-year hiatus. He compiled a 43-35-1 record in five seasons with the Eagles from 1986-90, but it was his 0-3 playoff record that cost him his job.

He kept only two assistants from Bugel's staff, Ted Plumb and Ted Cottrell, and hired many of the former aides he had in Philadelphia. He also hired his twin sons, Rex (defensive line) and Rob (defensive backs)—both of whom know Ryan's famed 46 defense better than anyone. Offensive coordinator Dave Atkins inherits the NFC's fourth highest-scoring offense of 1993.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last year, rookie Ron Moore became the first Cardinal since Stump Mitchell in 1985 to rush for more than 1,000 yards.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The Cardinals have employed a different starting quarterback at the start of every season since they moved from St. Louis in 1988, but Steve Beuerlein is back in '94 and Ryan couldn't be happier.

Beuerlein, 29, achieved several career highs last season, when he completed 258 of 418 passes (61.7 percent) for 3,164 yards and 18 touchdowns. Beuerlein doesn't have the strongest body and some might consider him injury prone, but he's ready to blossom this year and could be the surprise quarterback of the NFC.

Jim McMahon, the 35-year-old journeyman who has been with Ryan in Chicago and Philadelphia, will be the backup, replacing Chris Chandler. McMahon started 12 games for Minnesota last season and would be a capable replacement. Waiting in the wings is lefthander Will Furrer, another former Bear, whom Ryan has praised ever since arriving in Phoenix. Last season's No. 3 quarterback, Tony Sacca, was released.

RUNNING BACKS—If everything works out, this could be one of Arizona's biggest strengths. Questions remain concerning Garrison Hearst, but if he returns from the knee surgery that wrecked his rookie season and lives up to the potential that made him the third player drafted in 1993, the Cardinals could have one of the league's best backfields.

Hearst was injured in the seventh week of the season, creating an opportunity that another rookie, Ron Moore, took advantage of. Moore, a fourth-round draft pick, became the first Cardinal since Stump Mitchell in 1985 to rush for more than 1,000 yards.

Ryan tried to trade Hearst in April but has since announced that he'll return to team up with Moore this season. Hearst could rush for 1,000 yards if he gets the chance, but will he?

Fullback Larry Centers led the Cardinals in receptions (66) and might have the best hands on the club. Rookie Chuck Levy of Ari-

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The addition of Buddy Ryan and free agents Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons should make Arizona's defense one of the best in the NFL. Tackle Eric Swann is an emerging star, and the Cardinals could lead the league in takeaways and sacks. Steve Beuerlein continues to improve at quarterback, and he has three great targets to throw to in Gary Clark, Randal Hill and Ricky Proehl. If Garrison Hearst shows his true stuff in a backfield that already includes Ron Moore, the offense will be explosive.

Weaknesses: There is little depth on a young offensive line, and almost no depth at all behind the starting linebackers and cornerbacks. The secondary can be beat by the long ball.

Keys to success: Defense, defense, defense. Ryan will be preaching it all season, and the Cardinals can make the playoffs if they play as well on defense as they say they will.

That's a fact: The Cardinals outscored their opponents by 57 points last season and still finished with a losing record (7-9). Eight of their nine losses were decided by seven or fewer points.

Coach Buddy Ryan says: "I expected to get another shot (as a head coach) because I knew if someone wanted to win, they'd hire me. They'd hire me because they know I know how to win, they know I know how to find coaches and they know I know how to get good personnel."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Clark	R. Hill	Levy
LT	Sharpe	Moody	Dye
LG	Dye	Braham	Moody
C	E. Cunningham	Tucker	Kirk
RG	Coleman	Braham	Wolf
RT	R. Cunningham	Wolf	Redmon
TE	Ware	Samuels	Fann
WR	Proehl	Edwards	Levy
QB	Beuerlein	McMahon	Furrer
FB	Centers	Harvey	
TB	Moore	Hearst	Levy

DEFENSE

LE	Brown	England	
LT	Swann	Johnson	England
RT	Bankston	Rucker	Johnson
RE	Simmons	England	
LOLB	Joyner	Jax	Merritt
MLB	E. Hill	Wallerstedt	Stowe
ROLB	Miller	Hyche	Braxton
LCB	A. Williams	Carter	Lofton
RCB	J. Williams	Reece	Richardson
SS	Lynch	Harris	Hoage
FS	Zordich	Cecil	Reece

SPECIALISTS

K	Davis	KR	Levy
P	Feagles	PR	Levy

ARIZONA CARDINALS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Buddy Ryan.

Assistant coaches: • Dave Atkins (offensive coordinator/running backs) • Matt Cavanaugh (quarterbacks) • Ted Cottrell (linebackers) • Ronnie Jones (defensive coordinator) • George Martinez (quality control) • Guy Morriss (off. line assistant) • Dan Neal (offensive line) • Ted Plumb (receivers/tight ends) • Al Roberts (special teams) • Bob Rogucki (strength and conditioning) • Rex Ryan (defensive line) • Rob Ryan (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 7-9 (4th in NFC East); 4-4 in division; 6-8 in conference; 4-4 at home; 3-5 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Ryan's regular-season record: 43-35-1 in five seasons with Eagles.
Ryan's postseason record: 0-3 in three playoffs with Eagles.
Team record last five years: 25-55 (.313, ranks 26th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	3	8
Rushing offense	6	11
Passing offense	4	9
Scoring offense	4	9
Total defense	10	21
Rushing defense	10	19
Passing defense	11	19
Scoring defense	4	7
Takeaways	11	T20
Giveaways	T7	T14
Turnover differential	11	21
Sacks	T10	T18
Sacks allowed	4	10

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Jamir Miller	LB	UCLA
2nd	Chuck Levy	TB	Arizona
3rd	Rich Braham	G	West Virginia
3rd	Eric England	DE/DT	Texas A&M
4th	Perry Carter	CB	Southern Mississippi
4th	John Reece	CB/FS	Nebraska
4th	Terry Irving	LB	McNeese State
5th	Anthony Redmon	T	Auburn
6th	Terry Samuels	TE	Kentucky
7th	Frank Harvey	FB	Georgia

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Sept. 11	N.Y. GIANTS	5:00
Sept. 18	at Cleveland	1:00
Sept. 25	Open date	
Oct. 2	MINNESOTA	1:00
Oct. 9	at Dallas	3:00
Oct. 16	at Washington	1:00
Oct. 23	DALLAS	1:00
Oct. 30	PITTSBURGH	6:00
Nov. 6	at Philadelphia	4:00
Nov. 13	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Nov. 20	PHILADELPHIA	2:00
Nov. 27	CHICAGO	2:00
Dec. 4	at Houston	3:00
Dec. 11	WASHINGTON	2:00
Dec. 18	CINCINNATI	2:00
Dec. 24	at Atlanta (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept. 5	at Philadelphia	L	17-23
Sept. 12	at Washington	W	17-10
Sept. 19	DALLAS	L	10-17
Sept. 26	at Detroit	L	20-26
Oct. 3	Open date		
Oct. 10	NEW ENGLAND	L	21-23
Oct. 17	WASHINGTON	W	36-6
Oct. 24	at San Francisco	L	14-28
Oct. 31	NEW ORLEANS	L	17-20
Nov. 7	PHILADELPHIA	W	16-3
Nov. 14	at Dallas	L	15-20
Nov. 21	Open date		
Nov. 28	at N.Y. Giants	L	17-19
Dec. 5	L.A. RAMS	W	38-10
Dec. 12	DETROIT	L	14-21
Dec. 19	at Seattle (OT)	W	30-27
Dec. 26	N.Y. GIANTS	W	17-6
Jan. 2	at Atlanta	W	27-10

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Sun Devil Stadium (73,521, grass) • Ticket information: 602-379-0102 • Flagship radio station: KESZ, 99.9 FM • Training site: Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz.; 602-379-0101.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the 27 touchdowns allowed by the Cardinals last season were the fewest they have yielded in a 16-game season?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Steve Beuerlein	6	8	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Eric Blount	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Larry Centers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Gary Clark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	4
Greg Davis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	4	4	37	—	—
Anthony Edwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Garrison Hearst	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Randal Hill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Lorenzo Lynch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Jim McMahon	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Ron Moore	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Ricky Proehl	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	7
Aeneas Williams	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

JEFF FISHBEIN

New Arizona Coach Buddy Ryan thinks Eric Swann (above) will be the next Reggie White.

zona will get his hands on the ball, too, be it running, receiving or throwing. Ryan believes Levy is an Eric Metcalf-type threat, only better.

RECEIVERS—This is another strength. Arizona's best wideout is Gary Clark, a reliable receiver who joined the Cards last season after eight years with Washington and managed to catch 63 passes for 818 yards and four touchdowns despite being healthy for only seven games. Clark is the only NFL player to catch at least 50 passes in each of the last nine years.

Keep an eye on Randal Hill, the speedy former first-round pick from Miami (Fla.) who wasn't used properly by the former coaching staff. He should flourish under Ryan, who loves him. Ricky Proehl is as dependable as they come as a pass catcher, but he could become a lot more valuable if he just does something after the catch.

Tight end is a problem. Neither veteran Derek Ware nor rookie Terry Samuels is cut from the Keith Jackson mold that Ryan likes.

LINEMEN— Position coach Dan Neal said the weakest member of the Cardinals' offensive line is better than the best lineman he had in Philadelphia. However, that's faint praise when you consider that the Eagles gave up a ton of sacks in those years.

Arizona's line does deserve some credit. It allowed only 33 sacks last season (the fewest against the Cardinals since 1978), and Luis Sharpe, now in his 13th season, still is regarded as one of the best left tackles in the business.

After Sharpe, however, it's youth over experience. Fourth-year man Rick Cunningham is the other tackle, and third-year center Ed Cunningham is sandwiched between second-year guards Ben Coleman and Ernest Dye. Veterans Mark May and Lance Smith are gone, so Ryan is taking a gamble by having no real solid depth behind the youngsters.

Look for rookie guard Rich (Mr. Nasty) Braham, a third-round draftee from West Vir-

ginia, to crack the starting lineup before September is over.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This could be scary—in a positive sense. What do you get when you add Simmons, a Pro Bowl end, to a unit that includes an emerging superstar in Swann at tackle, a budding talent in Michael Bankston and big, young attackers like Chad Brown and Keith Rucker?

Answer: big trouble for quarterbacks and running backs.

Ryan thinks Swann will be the next Reggie White, and no one doubts him. Simmons, who has played eight NFL seasons and is still only 30, will make Swann even better and improve the pass rush. Brown has put some much-needed muscle on his 6-foot-7 frame and figures to start at left end, with Bankston at right tackle. If Rucker keeps slimming down—his weight has decreased from more than 380 pounds to a mere 360—he will be the force he dreams of becoming. Rookie Eric England of Texas A&M will make the team and challenge Brown at end.

LINEBACKERS—If the line looks tough, get a load of these guys: Seth Joyner, Eric Hill, Jamir Miller and Tyronne Stowe. Can you say, *"ouch"*?

Joyner is probably the best outside linebacker in football, and Hill, who will call the signals from his spot in the middle, has been the Cardinals' leading tackler ever since they drafted him No. 1 out of Louisiana State in 1989. Both Hill and Joyner average more than 100 tackles per season and could be on the verge of career years.

Miller, Arizona's No. 1 draft choice, will start next to Simmons and line up just off the line in the 46 defense. Although Miller left UCLA a year early, most scouts say his pass-rush abilities make him a can't-miss pro. Still, the Cardinals will miss outside linebacker Ken Harvey, who signed with the Redskins.

Depth is a major concern because if one of the three starters goes down, the whole defense could suffer. Stowe could start for any team as an inside linebacker, but when Ryan brought in the 46 defense, Stowe became a backup. He is too good to sit on the bench, so a trade is likely.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—This is where Arizona figures to be most tested. Assuming the line does its job and the linebackers do theirs, the secondary should be adequate. But if there's a breakdown, as will happen occasionally, the cornerbacks and safeties will have their hands full.

Aeneas Williams might be one of the most underrated corners in the league, but after him there are questions. Ryan traded for cornerback James Williams, a player the Buffalo Bills supposedly no longer wanted but one whom Ryan insists is a big-play man. Time will tell.

At safety, Chuck Cecil and John Booty first lost their starting spots—and then their jobs. Both were released in June, although Cecil was later re-signed for less money. He was never the same after being fined $30,000 by the league for two flagrant hits against Washington, and with shoulder, neck and confidence problems, Cecil missed more tackles than he made. Booty was injured much of last season, too, and he never really fit into Ryan's plans. For now, Michael Zordich and Lorenzo Lynch are penciled in at free safety and strong safety, respectively, but don't be surprised if Terry Hoage, a veteran who played for Ryan in Philadelphia and Houston, nudges his way into the starting lineup.

1994 ARIZONA CARDINALS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
7	Beuerlein, Steve	6-3/210	3-7-65	6	Notre Dame	FA/93	16/14
2	Furrer, Will	6-3/210	2-5-68	3	Virginia Tech	W-Chi/93	0/0
	McMahon, Jim	6-1/195	8-21-59	13	Brigham Young	FA/94	*12/12
	RUNNING BACKS						
25	Blount, Eric (KR)	5-9/200	9-22-70	3	North Carolina	D8/92	6/0
37	Centers, Larry (FB)	5-11/215	6-1-68	5	Stephen F. Austin State	D5/90	16/9
32	Harvey, Frank (FB)	6-0/245	1-19-71	R	Georgia	D7/94	—
23	Hearst, Garrison	5-11/215	1-4-71	2	Georgia	D1/93	6/5
4	Levy, Chuck (KR/PR)	6-0/197	1-7-72	R	Arizona	D2/94	—
30	Moore, Ron	5-10/220	11-26-70	2	Pittsburg (Kan.) State	D4/93	16/11
	RECEIVERS						
84	Clark, Gary	5-9/175	5-1-62	10	James Madison	FA/93	14/10
83	Edwards, Anthony (KR/PR)	5-10/190	5-26-66	6	New Mexico Highlands	FA/91	16/0
80	Fann, Chad (TE)	6-3/250	6-7-70	2	Florida A&M	FA/93	1/0
81	Hill, Randal	5-10/180	9-21-69	4	Miami (Fla.)	T-Mia/91	16/8
87	Proehl, Ricky	6-0/190	3-7-68	5	Wake Forest	D3/90	16/16
89	Samuels, Terry (TE)	6-2/254	9-27-70	R	Kentucky	D6/94	—
85	Ware, Derek (TE)	6-3/250	9-17-67	3	Central Oklahoma	D7/92	16/1
82	Wright, Willie (TE)	6-4/250	3-9-68	2	Wyoming	FA/94	0/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
76	Braham, Rich (G)	6-4/290	11-6-70	R	West Virginia	D3/94	—
62	Coleman, Ben (G)	6-6/335	5-18-71	2	Wake Forest	D2/93	12/0
70	Cunningham, Ed (C)	6-3/285	8-17-69	3	Washington	D3/92	15/15
64	Cunningham, Rick (T)	6-7/320	1-4-67	4	Texas A&M	FA/92	16/16
65	Dye, Ernest (G/T)	6-6/325	7-15-71	2	South Carolina	D1/93	7/1
60	Redmon, Anthony (T)	6-4/308	4-6-71	R	Auburn	D5/94	—
67	Sharpe, Luis (T)	6-5/280	6-16-60	13	UCLA	D1/82	16/16
71	Tucker, Mark (C/G)	6-3/290	4-29-68	2	Southern California	FA/93	0/0
68	Wolf, Joe (G/T)	6-6/296	12-28-66	6	Boston College	D1/89	8/5
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
63	Bankston, Michael (T)	6-3/280	3-12-70	3	Sam Houston State	D4/92	16/12
78	Brown, Chad (E)	6-7/265	7-9-71	2	Mississippi	D8/93	5/0
92	England, Eric (E/T)	6-2/283	3-25-71	R	Texas A&M	D3/94	—
72	Johnson, Chuckie (T)	6-4/310	3-5-69	2	Auburn	FA/93	5/0
79	Rucker, Keith (T)	6-4/360	11-20-68	3	Ohio Wesleyan	FA/92	16/15
96	Simmons, Clyde (E)	6-6/280	8-4-64	9	Western Carolina	FA/94	*16/16
98	Swann, Eric (T)	6-5/295	8-16-70	4	Wake Technical (N.C.)	D1/91	9/9
	LINEBACKERS						
54	Braxton, David	6-2/240	5-26-65	6	Wake Forest	FA/90	16/0
58	Hill, Eric	6-2/255	11-14-66	6	Louisiana State	D1/89	13/12
97	Hyche, Steve	6-3/250	6-12-63	5	Livingston (Ala.)	FA/91	2/0
56	Irving, Terry	6-0/224	7-3-71	R	McNeese State	D4/94	—
53	Jax, Garth	6-2/250	9-16-63	9	Florida State	PlanB/89	16/0
59	Joyner, Seth	6-2/235	11-18-64	9	Texas-El Paso	FA/94	*16/16
57	Kirk, Randy	6-2/231	12-27-64	7	San Diego State	FA/94	*16/0
94	Merritt, David	6-1/237	9-8-71	2	North Carolina State	FA/93	4/0
95	Miller, Jamir	6-4/242	11-19-73	R	UCLA	D1/94	—
90	Stowe, Tyronne	6-2/250	5-31-65	8	Rutgers	PlanB/91	15/15
52	Wallerstedt, Brett	6-1/240	11-24-70	2	Arizona State	D6/93	7/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
40	Carter, Perry (CB)	5-11/194	8-15-71	R	Southern Mississippi	D4/94	—
26	Cecil, Chuck (S)	6-0/190	11-8-64	7	Arizona	FA/94	15/7
31	Harris, Odie (S)	6-0/190	4-1-66	7	Sam Houston State	W-Cle/92	16/0
	Hoage, Terry (S)	6-2/201	4-11-62	10	Georgia	FA/94	*4/0
28	Lofton, Steve (CB)	5-9/195	11-26-68	4	Texas A&M	FA/91	13/0
29	Lynch, Lorenzo (S)	5-11/200	4-6-63	8	Sacramento State	PlanB/90	16/15
27	Oldham, Chris (CB)	5-10/195	10-26-68	4	Oregon	FA/92	16/6
41	Reece, John (CB/S)	6-0/203	1-24-71	R	Nebraska	D4/94	—
35	Williams, Aeneas (CB)	5-10/190	1-29-68	4	Southern (La.)	D3/90	16/16
21	Williams, James (CB)	5-10/185	3-30-67	5	Fresno State	T-Buf/94	*15/11
38	Zordich, Michael (S)	6-1/201	10-12-63	8	Penn State	PlanB/89	16/9
	SPECIALISTS						
5	Davis, Greg (K)	6-0/205	10-29-65	7	The Citadel	PlanB/91	16/0
10	Feagles, Jeff (P)	6-1/205	3-7-66	7	Miami (Fla.)	FA/94	*16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Brent Alexander, S; Todd Blackwell, C; Carl Bruere, WR; Tom Ciaccio, QB; Greg Faulkner, T; Jerome Gardner, DT; Brian Henesey, RB; Lennie Jenkins, DL; York Kurinsky, T; Kenny Lopez, DL; David McLeod, WR; Mike Moody, G/T; Anthony Owens, WR; John Pinckney, WR; Bryan Reeves, WR; Mose Richardson, CB; Richard Shadwick, DE; Will Tate, WR; Sean Wallace, S; Eric Wolford, C.
*Not with Cardinals in 1993.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Ryan didn't want to pay five-time Pro Bowl punter Rich Camarillo top dollar, so the free agent was not invited back despite posting some great numbers last season. The good news is that "bullet man" Anthony Edwards, who downed four of Camarillo's punts on the 1-yard line, now will be running under the kicks of Jeff Feagles, who is no slouch himself.

Greg Davis rebounded from a horrendous 1992 season to become only the third Cardinal to score 100 points since 1970. Davis set a club record by converting 21 of 28 field goals—he was 13-for-13 inside the 40—and had four of more than 50 yards.

The versatile Levy will handle all the kick returns and also will be used as a two-point specialist after touchdowns. ◆

Cowboys intend to prove the naysayers wrong

By MICKEY SPAGNOLA

Free-lance writer

Just when it appears that the Dallas Cowboys are falling apart, the NFL's two-time defending Super Bowl champions have a renewed resolve to three-peat.

Their owner, Jerry Jones, is chomping at the bit with an I'll-show-you attitude, just waiting to prove he can win another title without the departed Jimmy Johnson. The Cowboys' new coach, Barry Switzer, wants to prove he belongs in the NFL after 16 collegiate seasons at Oklahoma. And the Dallas assistant coaches, all retained by Switzer, want to show that the staff was more than just Johnson.

Even the players are getting into the act. Receivers Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper will be motivated to prove their worth in the final years of their contracts. Emmitt Smith, only 25 and four years in the league, has Walter Payton's career rushing mark on his mind and knows he can't afford to have an off year. Middle linebacker Robert Jones is intent on showing the Cowboys that they did not waste a No. 1 draft choice on him in 1992. Free safety James Washington, also in the final year of his contract, is out to prove that he should not have lost his starting job last season.

And even though the Cowboys have lost five starters from last season's Super Bowl winners along with their place-kicker, head coach and offensive coordinator, they are stubbornly intent on proving the naysayers wrong.

"It's a pride thing with the Cowboys," Pro Bowl guard Nate Newton said. "And if you research Coach Switzer, he has the same thing (as Johnson) on his mind. All they want to do is win."

All of which makes three consecutive Super Bowls realistic.

COACHING

Switzer hasn't coached since 1988 and has never coached in the NFL, but he doesn't plan to change things very much in Dallas. That's good, because the old setup worked just fine. The Cowboys have won 36 of their last 48 regular-season games and seven of their last eight playoff games (including six in a row).

Prior to leaving with a fist full of dollars, Johnson hired Ernie Zampese to replace Norv Turner as the team's offensive coordinator. Zampese taught the basics of the offense that Dallas uses to Turner while both were with the Rams, so the system, plays and terminology remain the same. And don't think for a minute that Switzer will impart his wishbone wisdom on the Cowboys. He spent the off-season learning Dallas' offense, which Troy Aikman probably knows well enough to run himself.

Defensively, Switzer has told coordinator Butch Davis to carry on, and Switzer hired former Washington State defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer to handle the nickel defense.

RICHARD GENTILE

Running back Emmitt Smith continues to make a persuasive argument that he's the best in the league at what he does.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—What does a guy who has two Super Bowl rings, a Super Bowl MVP award, three Pro Bowl appearances and a $50 million contract do in the off-season? If you're Aikman, you work hard on conditioning your body. He added 10 pounds of muscle to his 6-foot-4 frame and the only concern with him is staying healthy. Aikman's accuracy was nearly uncanny last season (just six interceptions in 392 pass attempts), and his patience was almost as uncanny. He has no problem throwing underneath to his running backs and tight ends, biding his time until coverage loosens on the wide receivers.

The only concern at quarterback was finding an experienced backup once Bernie Kosar left for Miami. Zampese chose Rodney Peete, a former starter in Detroit. Peete should benefit greatly in the Cowboys' offense, but it's clear that Dallas is renting him for only one season. Jason Garrett, a capable player who started one game as a rookie last season, is waiting in the wings.

RUNNING BACKS—Talk about your Dream Backfield. On one hand you have Emmitt Smith, the three-time defending NFL rushing champion and reigning Super Bowl MVP. On the other you have fullback Daryl Johnston, the ultimate complementary back. He'll block, catch passes, run decoy routes and block some more. And on rare occasions, Johnston will even run the ball in short-yardage or goal-line situations.

Smith, who led the league despite missing Dallas' first two games in a contract dispute, continues to make a persuasive argument that he's the best in the league at what he does. He starts the 1994 season with a fully repaired shoulder and 5,699 career rushing yards.

Thanks to the early exposure that Derrick

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: It's not easy to retain all of your Pro Bowl players in the free-agency era, but if Cowboys re-sign center Mark Stepnoski, they'll have retained all eight of their 1993 Pro Bowlers on offense. If so, they'll again have one of the most potent and versatile offensive units in the league. Quarterback Troy Aikman and running back Emmitt Smith may be the best players in the NFL at their positions.

Weaknesses: Departed middle linebacker Ken Norton will be missed, a big reason being his ability to call the defenses and get others in the right places. The Cowboys have few candidates with the type of personality and experience to fill that role, but keep an eye on free safety James Washington and right end Charles Haley.

Keys to success: Barry Switzer is new to the NFL and hasn't coached in six years, so he must gain the club's confidence and respect early. A quick start also is important, otherwise doubts and questions about all the team's off-season moves could set in. Keeping top players healthy is a priority for any team, but especially one that lost as much of its depth via free agency as the Cowboys did.

That's a fact: Since the NFL began playing championship games in 1933, the 1965-67 Green Bay Packers are the only club to win three straight league title games. Dallas hopes to join the select company this season.

Coach Barry Switzer says: "We keep Emmitt and Troy healthy, we get the center (Stepnoski) back—and I know we've lost some players—they're still going to have to come through Dallas to get there."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Harper	K. Williams	T. Williams
LT	Tuinei	Stone	Hegamin
LG	Newton	Allen	Cornish
C	Stepnoski	Cornish	Parrish
RG	Kennard	Allen	Hellestrae
RT	E. Williams	Hegamin	
TE	Novacek	Galbraith	
WR	Irvin	Jackson	Hill
QB	Aikman	Peete	Garrett
FB	Johnston	Agee	Wilson
TB	E. Smith	Lassic	Coleman

DEFENSE

LE	Tolbert	Jeffcoat	
LT	Maryland	McIntosh	
RT	Lett	Hennings	
RE	Haley	Carver	
SLB	Edwards	Myles	
MLB	Jones	Myles	Dotson
WLB	D. Smith	Myles	
LCB	K. Smith	Thomas	
RCB	Brown	Holmes	
SS	Woodson	Gant	
FS	Washington	Marion	Studstill

SPECIALISTS

K	(undecided)	KR	K. Williams	Gant	
P	Jett	PR	K. Williams	Holmes	K. Smith

Lassic received as a rookie last year and the acquisition of former Arena Leaguer Lincoln Coleman late in the season, the Cowboys have their best depth at running back since Smith's arrival in 1990. Lassic has his weight and confidence back, and the bruising Coleman provides a nice changeup when he subs for the elusive Smith. Veteran Tommie Agee and newcomer Robert Wilson will battle in training camp for the backup job at fullback.

RECEIVERS—The best draft-day move the Cowboys might have made was one they didn't: trading Alvin Harper. With Harper back, the receiving corps stays intact. And that's mighty fine when you have Irvin on one side, Harper on the other and Kevin Williams in reserve.

Irvin, whose 88 catches ranked third in the league, is Dallas' go-to receiver and a tough player to cover one-on-one. Harper averaged an NFC-high 21.6 yards per reception and keeps opponents from constantly double-teaming Irvin. If Harper, as expected, signs only a one-year deal so he can become an unrestricted free agent in 1995, his motivation level will be high.

Williams had problems running his routes as a rookie last season. But, with a year's polish, could become a nice weapon.

Tight end is in great hands with Jay Novacek, a three-time Pro Bowler. He caught fewer passes last season than he did the year before, but many of those passes went to Johnston after opposing defenses wised up and started covering Novacek.

LINEMEN—The burning question here has to do with Pro Bowl center Mark Stepnoski, an unrestricted free agent who was waiting until his knee rehab was further along to negotiate a deal.

If Stepnoski returns, Dallas' line remains a highly capable unit despite the loss of guards Kevin Gogan and John Gesek. The Cowboys would merely plug in free agent Derek Kennard at right guard and go on about their business with Newton at left guard and Mark Tuinei and Erik Williams at the tackles. But if Stepnoski goes elsewhere, the Cowboys would have to sign another center—a player who almost certainly wouldn't be as good.

The backup linemen figure to be a hodgepodge of rookies and minimum-wage free agents.

1994 DALLAS COWBOYS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
8	Aikman, Troy	6-4/228	11-21-66	6	UCLA	D1/89	14/14
17	Garrett, Jason	6-2/195	3-28-66	2	Princeton	FA/93	5/1
	Peete, Rodney	6-0/207	3-16-66	6	Southern California	FA/94	*10/10
	RUNNING BACKS						
34	Agee, Tommie (FB)	6-0/235	2-22-64	8	Auburn	FA/93	12/0
44	Coleman, Lincoln	6-1/249	8-12-69	2	Baylor	FA/93	7/0
32	Garrett, Judd	6-2/214	6-25-67	1	Princeton	FA/94	0/0
48	Johnston, Daryl (FB)	6-2/238	2-10-66	6	Syracuse	D2/89	16/16
25	Lassic, Derrick	5-10/188	1-26-70	2	Alabama	D4/93	10/3
22	Smith, Emmitt	5-9/209	5-15-69	5	Florida	D1/90	14/13
	RECEIVERS						
89	Galbraith, Scott (TE)	6-2/255	1-7-67	5	Southern California	FA/93	7/0
80	Harper, Alvin	6-3/208	7-6-67	4	Tennessee	D1/91	16/15
88	Irvin, Michael	6-2/205	3-5-66	7	Miami, Fla.	D1/88	16/16
1	Jackson, Willie	6-1/205	8-16-71	R	Florida	D4/94	—
84	Novacek, Jay (TE)	6-4/232	10-24-62	10	Wyoming	PlanB/90	16/16
89	Price, Jim (TE)	6-4/247	10-2-66	4	Stanford	T-Ram/93	3/0
82	Smith, Jimmy	6-1/205	2-9-69	3	Jackson State	D2/92	0/0
85	Williams, Kevin (KR/PR)	5-9/192	1-25-71	2	Miami (Fla.)	D2/93	16/1
86	Williams, Tyrone	6-5/220	3-26-70	2	Western Ontario	FA/92	5/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
73	Allen, Larry (G)	6-3/325	11-27-71	R	Sonoma State (Calif.)	D2/94	—
68	Cornish, Frank (C/G)	6-4/287	9-24-67	5	UCLA	PlanB/92	14/3
69	Hegamin, George (T)	6-7/355	2-14-73	R	North Carolina State	D3/94	—
70	Hellestrae, Dale (G)	6-7/355	7-11-62	10	Southern Methodist	T-Rai/90	16/0
60	Kennard, Derek (G)	6-3/300	9-9-62	9	Nevada	FA/94	*16/16
61	Newton, Nate (G)	6-3/325	12-20-61	9	Florida A&M	FA/86	16/16
62	Parrish, James (C)	6-6/310	5-19-68	1	Temple	FA/93	*1/0
74	Rentie, Caesar	6-3/323	11-10-64	2	Oklahoma	FA/94	0/0
53	Stepnoski, Mark (C)	6-2/264	1-20-67	6	Pittsburgh	D3/89	13/13
65	Stone, Ron (T)	6-5/309	7-20-71	2	Boston College	D4/93	0/0
71	Tuinei, Mark (T)	6-5/305	3-31-60	12	Hawaii	FA/83	16/16
79	Williams, Erik (T)	6-6/324	9-7-68	4	Central State (O.)	D3/91	16/16
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
96	Carver, Shante (E)	6-5/240	2-12-71	R	Arizona State	D1/94	—
94	Haley, Charles (E)	6-5/250	1-6-64	9	James Madison	T-SF/92	14/11
95	Hennings, Chad (T)	6-6/286	10-20-65	3	Air Force	D11/88	13/0
77	Jeffcoat, Jim (E)	6-5/280	4-1-61	12	Arizona State	D1/83	16/3
78	Lett, Leon (T)	6-6/285	10-12-68	4	Emporia (Kan.) State	D7/91	11/6
67	Maryland, Russell (T)	6-1/279	3-22-69	4	Miami, Fla.	D1/91	16/12
90	McIntosh, Toddrick (T)	6-3/277	1-22-72	R	Florida State	D7/94	—
92	Tolbert, Tony (E)	6-6/263	12-29-67	6	Texas-El Paso	D4/89	16/16
	LINEBACKERS						
56	Collins, Roosevelt	6-4/244	1-25-68	2	Texas Christian	FA/94	0/0
50	Dotson, Dewayne	6-1/250	6-10-71	R	Mississippi	D4/94	—
58	Edwards, Dixon	6-1/222	3-25-68	4	Michigan State	D2/91	16/15
55	Jones, Robert	6-2/237	9-27-69	3	East Carolina	D1/92	13/3
98	Myles, Godfrey	6-1/242	9-22-68	4	Florida	D3/91	10/0
59	Smith, Darrin	6-1/227	4-15-70	2	Miami (Fla.)	D2/93	16/13
91	Vanderbeek, Matt (E)	6-3/243	8-16-67	5	Michigan State	W-Ind/93	16/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
40	Bates, Bill (S)	6-1/205	6-6-61	12	Tennessee	FA/83	16/0
24	Brown, Larry (CB)	5-11/182	11-30-69	4	Texas Christian	D12/91	16/16
46	Fishback, Joe (S)	6-0/212	11-29-67	5	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	FA/93	6/0
29	Gant, Kenneth (S/KR)	5-11/189	4-18-67	5	Albany State (Ga.)	D9/90	12/1
47	Holmes, Clayton (CB/PR)	5-10/181	8-23-69	3	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	D3/92	0/0
31	Marion, Brock (S)	5-11/189	6-11-70	2	Nevada	D7/93	15/0
26	Smith, Kevin (CB/PR)	5-11/180	4-7-70	3	Texas A&M	D1/92	16/16
30	Studstill, Darren (S)	6-1/186	8-9-70	R	West Virginia	D6/94	—
41	Thomas, Dave (CB)	6-2/208	8-25-68	2	Tennessee	D8/93	12/0
37	Washington, James (S)	6-1/209	1-10-65	7	UCLA	PlanB/90	14/1
28	Woodson, Darren (S)	6-1/215	4-25-69	3	Arizona State	D2/92	16/15
	SPECIALISTS						
19	Jett, John (P)	6-0/184	11-11-68	2	East Carolina	FA/93	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Michael Batiste, DT; Coleman Bell, TE; Chris Boniol, K; Brad Bretz, QB; Alfie Burch, CB; Richie Cunningham, K; Tim Daniel, WR; Craig Fayak, K; Shelby Hill, WR; Tommy Jones, CB; Matt Joyce, OL; Mark Mason, RB; Marvin Mays, DE; Anthony McClanahan, LB; Hurvin McCormack, DT; Toby Mills, C; Aaron Mundy, TE; Keith Powe, DE; Caesar Rentie, OL; Tony Richardson, FB; Greg Schorp, TE; Keith Wagner, T; Jeff Wilkins, K; Nate Williams, DT; Robert Wilson, FB; Jermaine Younger, LB.
*Not with Cowboys in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The Cowboys' strength here in recent years had been depth, which enabled them to send fresh players at opponents in waves. But the free-agent defections of starting left tackle Tony Casillas and backup Jimmie Jones have thinned the ranks considerably. The club is holding its collective breath that defensive end Charles Haley, who underwent surgery to repair a ruptured disk in his lower back during the off-season, will recover fully. Haley's pass-rushing abilities make this a Super Bowl-quality line; without him, the Cowboys lose that much-needed pass-rush dimension. The only possible replacements heading into camp were veteran Jim Jeffcoat and first-round draft choice Shante Carver. But Jeffcoat is 33 and Carver was drafted as a role player, not as an every-down end.

Left end Tony Tolbert is the Cowboys' most consistent defensive lineman, but the departures of Casillas and Jones make it imperative that Russell Maryland and Leon Lett remain healthy. Both have a history of nagging injuries. The only reserve lineman is the untested Chad Hennings.

LINEBACKERS—None of Dallas' starting linebackers in 1994 will have started for more than one NFL season, a precarious predicament caused by Ken Norton's free-agent defection to San Francisco. The Cowboys couldn't afford to better the 49ers' offer of a five-year, $8 million contract, so third-year man Robert Jones will take Norton's spot in the middle. Jones started 13 games at that position as a rookie in 1992 before losing the job to Norton last year. Godfrey Myles is the only other veteran alternative at middle linebacker, but he hasn't played the position in his three previous NFL seasons.

The outside spots should be all right with Darrin Smith on the weak side and Dixon Edwards on the strong side. Norton's loss, however, creates a void in the middle of the nickel defense. Watch for Myles or Darrin Smith

Continued

DALLAS COWBOYS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Barry Switzer.
Assistant coaches: • Hubbard Alexander (wide receivers) • Joe Avezzano (special teams) • John Blake (defensive line) • Joe Brodsky (running backs) • Dave Campo (defensive backs) • Butch Davis (defensive coordinator/linebackers) • Jim Eddy (defensive assistant) • Robert Ford (tight ends) • Steve Hoffman (kickers/quality control) • Hudson Houck (offensive line) • Mike Woicik (strength and conditioning) • Ernie Zampese (offensive coordinator).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 12-4 (1st in NFC East); 7-1 in division; 10-2 in conference; 6-2 at home; 6-2 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Packers, 27-17, in NFC divisional playoff game; defeated 49ers, 38-21, in NFC championship game; defeated Bills, 30-13, in Super Bowl.
Switzer's regular-season record: First season as NFL head coach.
Team record last five years: 44-36 (.550, ranks T13th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	2	4
Rushing offense	2	2
Passing offense	3	7
Scoring offense	2	2
Total defense	7	10
Rushing defense	5	11
Passing defense	T7	T10
Scoring defense	2	2
Takeaways	T9	T17
Giveaways	2	4
Turnover differential	3	T8
Sacks	T10	T18
Sacks allowed	1	T3

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Shante Carver	DE	Arizona State
2nd	Larry Allen	G	Sonoma State (Calif.)
3rd	George Hegamin	T	North Carolina State
4th	Willie Jackson	WR	Florida
4th	Dewayne Dotson	LB	Mississippi
6th	Darren Studstill	FS	West Virginia
7th	Toddrick McIntosh	DT	Florida State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Pittsburgh	4:00
Sept.	11	HOUSTON	3:00
Sept.	19	DETROIT (Mon.)	8:00
Sept.	25	Open date	
Oct.	2	at Washington	1:00
Oct.	9	ARIZONA	3:00
Oct.	16	PHILADELPHIA	3:00
Oct.	23	at Arizona	1:00
Oct.	30	at Cincinnati	1:00
Nov.	7	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	8:00
Nov.	13	at San Francisco	1:00
Nov.	20	WASHINGTON	12:00
Nov.	24	GREEN BAY (Thanks.)	3:00
Dec.	4	at Philadelphia	1:00
Dec.	10	CLEVELAND (Sat.)	3:00
Dec.	19	at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:00
Dec.	24	at N.Y. Giants (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	6	at Washington	L	16-35
Sept.	12	BUFFALO	L	10-13
Sept.	19	at Phoenix	W	17-10
Sept.	26	Open date		
Oct.	3	GREEN BAY	W	36-14
Oct.	10	at Indianapolis	W	27-3
Oct.	17	SAN FRANCISCO	W	26-17
Oct.	24	Open date		
Oct.	31	at Philadelphia	W	23-10
Nov.	7	N.Y. GIANTS	W	31-9
Nov.	14	PHOENIX	W	20-15
Nov.	21	at Atlanta	L	14-27
Nov.	25	MIAMI	L	14-16
Dec.	6	PHILADELPHIA	W	23-17
Dec.	12	at Minnesota	W	37-20
Dec.	18	at N.Y. Jets	W	28-7
Dec.	26	WASHINGTON	W	38-3
Jan.	2	at N.Y. Giants (OT)	W	16-13

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Texas Stadium (65,024, artificial) • Ticket information: 214-579-5000 • Flagship radio station: KVIL, 103.7 FM • Training site: St. Edward's University, Austin, Tex.; 214-556-9900.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Cowboys, winners of the NFC East title the last two years, are the last club to win as many as three consecutive NFC East crowns? They won four in a row from 1976-79.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Troy Aikman	5	6	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Lincoln Coleman	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scott Galbraith	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Alvin Harper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Michael Irvin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	7
Daryl Johnston	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Derrick Lassic	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Jay Novacek	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Rodney Peete	1	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Emmitt Smith	—	—	—	—	6	2	1	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	10
Kevin Smith	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Kevin Williams	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

THE SPORTING NEWS

Since Dallas lacks proven depth on the defensive line, it's imperative that Russell Maryland remain healthy this season.

to take Norton's nickel spot in those situations (usually third down and five or fewer yards to go) and for Bill Bates to play on definite passing downs.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The secondary is young, thin and talented. Really talented. One NFC official said Kevin Smith and Larry Brown form the best cornerback tandem in the league, and they did nothing last season to dispel that thinking.

Although last year's starting free safety, Thomas Everett, was voted to the Pro Bowl, the feeling of the coaching staff was that Darren Woodson, playing his first full season at strong safety, had the best season of any Dallas safety. Everett was traded to Tampa Bay to free up room under the salary cap, which means Washington, the Cowboys' starting free safety from 1990-92, will return to that role. If Washington plays as aggressively for 16 games this season as he did in Super Bowl XXVIII, he'll make a bundle in free agency in 1995.

The only problem is depth, and that could hurt the nickel defense. Everett's absence makes Woodson a full-time safety, so the Cowboys must find some inside cover guys. Kenny Gant, Clayton Holmes, Dave Thomas and Brock Marion will compete for the two spots.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Cowboys, who have used five placekickers in the last five seasons, are in need of another. The latest search was necessitated by the departure of Eddie Murray, who signed with Philadelphia as a free agent.

With the Cowboys trying to save money, it's likely they will be employing their third rookie kicker in five years. They signed four free agents in the off-season and will take at least two to camp. The punting is in the capable hands of John Jett.

Kevin Williams once again will put excitement into the return game, but the Cowboys need to sign a deep snapper. Free agent Dale Hellestrae more than capably handled those chores for the last four seasons, and he'll resign if the price is right. ◆

L.T. will be missed, but Giants won't disappear

By ERNIE PALLADINO
Gannett Suburban Newspapers

This season, the New York Giants will discover what life is like without L.T. Lawrence Taylor, perhaps the greatest outside linebacker in National Football League history, retired following the Giants' 44-3 loss to San Francisco in an NFC divisional playoff game.

"I don't know how you can replace a Lawrence Taylor," Coach Dan Reeves said. "We'll have to change our scheme a little. You can't attack it the same way."

Without number 56, the Giants plan to switch from a 3-4 to a 4-3 alignment. But aside from physical adjustments, they will have to make some mental modifications as well. No longer will the Giants have the on-field inspiration that Taylor so often provided. Even in his final years, when his skills appeared to be sliding, Taylor still could push his teammates to greater heights.

New York's defense shined in Taylor's final season, when the Giants went 11-5, finished second in the NFC East and beat Minnesota in a wild-card playoff game. In 1993, the Giants allowed a league-low 205 points (12.8 per game) and ranked fifth in the NFL in total defense (291.4 yards per game).

The Giants' 1994 success may be more dependent on the offense. But enough talent remains on both sides of the ball to make New York competitive. This year, however, it won't come as so much of a surprise.

COACHING

In just one year, Reeves has his players believing in his philosophy and in themselves. When he arrived from Denver before last season, one of Reeves' first moves was to rid the locker room of malcontents. Left was a core of players who weren't as talented as, say, Pepper Johnson, one of the players who was jettisoned, but who were willing to follow Reeves' orders. And since Reeves' 129 career wins rank third among active head coaches, his words obviously capture his players' attention.

Although in recent years the Giants' offense has tended to be ground-oriented—New York boasted the league's top rushing offense in 1993 (138.1 yards a game)—Reeves has shown a willingness to occasionally utilize a gimmick play. If nothing else, he will make the game interesting.

With the offense in fairly good shape, the burden for success falls more on the defensive assistants. Coordinator Mike Nolan has said the Giants will start the season in a 4-3 set, but that could change if the defense struggles.

TOM BERG

Tight end Howard Cross, who caught a team-high five touchdown passes last season, continues to emerge as a viable target in the red zone.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Phil Simms is still the starter, even though he's 38. But this season, Reeves must find playing time for third-year pros Dave Brown and Kent Graham. This is the last year of Simms' contract, and he said a year ago that he has no plans to sign another deal.

But attitudes can change—especially if Simms stays healthy and feels good. He underwent off-season shoulder surgery following a terrific '93 season that saw him rank fourth in the NFL in passing. The 15th-year veteran completed 247 of 400 passes for 3,038 yards and 15 touchdowns. He threw nine interceptions.

Brown probably will serve as Simms' primary backup, despite the fact that his passing has been erratic and he has yet to impress in practice. If the Giants have to start either Brown or Graham early this season, they're in trouble.

RUNNING BACKS—Rodney Hampton appears ready to join Emmitt Smith and Thurman Thomas among the NFL's elite ballcarriers. Last season, he eclipsed the 1,000-yard rushing mark (1,077) for a club-record third consecutive year despite missing four games following arthroscopic surgery on his left knee in October. If he stays healthy, Hampton should power his way to another huge year.

Reeves must avoid overusing Hampton, because if he gets hurt, New York could be in trouble. Lewis Tillman, a steady reserve the last five seasons, left for Chicago via free agency, leaving David Meggett and rookie Gary Downs as Hampton's backups. Meggett is more useful as a pass catcher and return man because of his open-field running skills. Reeves probably will be reluctant to use Downs, a third-round draft pick from North Carolina State.

Regardless of who carries the ball, fullback Jarrod Bunch will provide good blocking.

RECEIVERS—This group will be fine if Mike Sherrard is recovered from a season-ending hip injury he suffered last October. If not, the Giants will rely on Arthur Marshall, a speedster they acquired in an off-season trade with Denver, where he played for

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Working behind a strong line, Rodney Hampton is ready to become an elite NFL running back. End Keith Hamilton is a strong pass rusher and middle linebacker Michael Brooks is a tremendous run stopper. Place-kicker Brad Daluiso may have the strongest leg in the league.

Weaknesses: Free-agent defections rocked the secondary, which is young and vulnerable. If Chris Calloway and Mike Sherrard have not recovered from injuries and if rookie Thomas Lewis flops, New York will have problems at wide receiver.

Keys to success: Good health for quarterback Phil Simms and Hampton. A lack of depth means an injury to either player could prove disastrous. New York also needs strong efforts from cornerbacks Phillippi Sparks and Corey Raymond. A replacement for departed free safety Myron Guyton must be found.

That's a fact: After converting on 44 of 45 trips inside the red zone in 1992 (97.8 percent), the Giants scored on only 41 of 49 trips last year (83.7 percent). Of New York's red-zone successes in 1993, 21 were field goals and 20 were touchdowns, compared with 31 TDs and 13 field goals the year before.

Coach Dan Reeves says: "You always want to upgrade your team with competition, but we don't know what the salary cap will do. I don't know what the makeup of this team will be. I just know it's going to take a lot of hard work."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Sherrard	Calloway	Lewis
LT	Elliott	Bishop	
LG	Roberts	Winrow	
C	B. Williams	Oates	
RG	L. Smith	Davis	Winrow
RT	Riesenberg	Bishop	
TE	Cross	De. Brown	Pierce
WR	Marshall	McCaffrey	
QB	Simms	Da. Brown	Graham
RB	Hampton	Meggett	Downs
FB	Bunch	Rasheed	

DEFENSE

LE	Hamilton	Brannon	Bratzke
LT	Dillard	Maumalanga	
RT	Howard	Flythe	
RE	Strahan	McGhee	Fox
LLB	Bailey	Armstead	Widmer
MLB	Brooks	Powell	
RLB	Miller	Buckley	Powell
LCB	Sparks	Randolph	
RCB	Raymond	Beamon	Randolph
SS	Campbell	Tate	
FS	Jackson	Sehorn	

SPECIALISTS

K	Daluiso	KR	Meggett
P	Horan	PR	Meggett

NEW YORK GIANTS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Dan Reeves.

Assistant coaches: • Don Blackmon (linebackers) • Dave Brazil (defensive quality control) • James Daniel (tight ends) • Joe DeCamillis (special teams) • Kerry Goode (assistant strength and conditioning/offensive quality control) • George Henshaw (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks) • Earl Leggett (defensive line) • Pete Managurian (offensive line) • Al Miller (strength and conditioning) • Mike Nolan (defensive coordinator) • Dick Rehbein (wide receivers) • George Sefcik (running backs) • Zaven Yaralian (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 11-5 (2nd in NFC East); 5-3 in division; 9-3 in conference; 6-2 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Vikings, 17-10, in NFC wild-card game; lost to 49ers, 44-3, in NFC divisional playoff game.
Reeves' regular-season record: 11-5 in one season with Giants; 121-78-1 overall in 13 NFL seasons with Giants and Broncos.
Reeves' postseason record: 1-1 in one playoff with Giants; 8-7 overall in seven playoffs with Giants and Broncos (0-3 in Super Bowls).
Team record last five years: 50-30 (.625, ranks T5th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	4	10
Rushing offense	1	1
Passing offense	10	22
Scoring offense	9	18
Total defense	4	5
Rushing defense	2	7
Passing defense	T7	T10
Scoring defense	1	1
Takeaways	T9	T17
Giveaways	1	1
Turnover differential	1	T3
Sacks	7	12
Sacks allowed	T8	T16

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Thomas Lewis	WR	Indiana
2nd	Thomas Randolph	CB	Kansas State
2nd	Jason Sehorn	S	Southern Cal
3rd	Gary Downs	RB	North Carolina State
4th	Chris Maumalanga	DT	Kansas
5th	Chad Bratzke	DE	Eastern Kentucky
6th	Jason Winrow	G	Ohio State

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Sept. 11	at Arizona	5:00
Sept. 18	WASHINGTON	4:00
Sept. 25	Open date	
Oct. 2	at New Orleans	3:00
Oct. 10	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	9:00
Oct. 16	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Oct. 23	PITTSBURGH	1:00
Oct. 30	DETROIT	1:00
Nov. 7	at Dallas (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 13	ARIZONA	1:00
Nov. 21	at Houston (Mon.)	8:00
Nov. 27	at Washington	4:00
Dec. 4	at Cleveland	4:00
Dec. 11	CINCINNATI	1:00
Dec. 18	at Philadelphia	4:00
Dec. 24	DALLAS (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept. 5	at Chicago	W	26-20
Sept. 12	TAMPA BAY	W	23-7
Sept. 19	L.A. RAMS	W	20-10
Sept. 26	Open date		
Oct. 3	at Buffalo	L	14-17
Oct. 10	at Washington	W	41-7
Oct. 17	PHILADELPHIA	W	21-10
Oct. 24	Open date		
Oct. 31	N.Y. JETS	L	6-10
Nov. 7	at Dallas	L	9-31
Nov. 14	WASHINGTON	W	20-6
Nov. 21	at Philadelphia	W	7-3
Nov. 28	PHOENIX	W	19-17
Dec. 5	at Miami	W	19-14
Dec. 12	INDIANAPOLIS	W	20-6
Dec. 20	at New Orleans	W	24-14
Dec. 26	at Phoenix	L	6-17
Jan. 2	DALLAS (OT)	L	13-16

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Giants Stadium (77,541, artificial) • Ticket information: 201-935-8222 • Flagship radio station: WOR, 710 AM • Training site: Fairleigh Dickinson University-Madison, Madison, N.J.; 201-935-8111.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that a different player has led the Giants in receiving in each of the last seven seasons? Mark Bavaro was New York's top pass catcher in 1987, Lionel Manuel in '88, Odessa Turner in '89, David Meggett in '90, Mark Ingram in '91, Ed McCaffrey in '92 and Mark Jackson in '93.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Jarrod Bunch	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Chris Calloway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Howard Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Brad Daluiso	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Rodney Hampton	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Ed McCaffrey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Arthur Marshall	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
David Meggett	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Kenyon Rasheed	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mike Sherrard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Phil Simms	6	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

There's a good chance this will be 38-year-old Phil Simms' final season.

Reeves as a rookie in 1992.

The Giants surprised many by picking Indiana receiver Thomas Lewis in the first round of last April's draft. But he can go deep and is used to playing in bad weather. Chris Calloway, who ranked third on the team with 35 receptions in '93, became a go-to guy down the stretch, but his role is contingent upon how he recovers from off-season neck surgery. Ed McCaffrey is strictly a possession receiver.

Aaron Pierce is the H-back, while tight end Howard Cross continues to emerge as a viable target in the red zone. He led the team with five TD grabs last year.

LINEMEN—As usual, this unit is a strength.

Sure, starting right guard Bob Kratch signed with New England in the off-season, but New York responded by signing free agent Lance Smith, a workmanlike guard who has been a starter for the Cardinals the last nine seasons. That move puts the line in good shape, providing left tackle John (Jumbo) Elliott is recovered from off-season back surgery.

Left guard William Roberts and right tackle Doug Riesenberg, who both are outstanding run blockers, will continue to make Hampton's life easier. The duo's pass-blocking improved as last year progressed. Brian Williams probably will assume starting center duties from Bart Oates.

A lack of depth could cause problems if the line is hit by injuries. Veteran tackle Eric Moore signed with Cincinnati in the off-season. As rookies last season, guard Scott Davis played in just four games and tackle Greg Bishop saw action in only eight. Mammoth guard Jason Winrow, a sixth-round pick from Ohio State last April, already has back problems.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—New York's switch to the 4-3 will require some personnel moves.

Either Mike Strahan, the Giants' second-round draft pick in 1993, or Kanavis McGhee figures to assume Taylor's pass-rush spot on the right side of the line, and former nose tackles Stacey Dillard and Erik Howard should man the tackle slots. Keith Hamilton, who led the club with 11½ sacks last year, will remain at left end.

The Giants made a further commitment to the 4-3 by picking defensive linemen with their fourth- and fifth-round picks in last April's draft—tackle Chris Maumalanga of Kansas and pass-rushing end Chad Bratzke of Eastern Kentucky.

The Giants need either McGhee or Strahan to emerge as a legitimate pass-rush threat at right end opposite Hamilton. Mike Fox figures in the mix at end, but his play has

TOM BERG

Left end Keith Hamilton paced New York with 11½ sacks last season.

1994 NEW YORK GIANTS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
17	Brown, Dave	6-5/215	2-25-70	3	Duke	SupD1/92	1/0
10	Graham, Kent	6-5/220	11-1-68	3	Ohio State	D8/92	9/0
11	Simms, Phil	6-3/214	11-3-55	16	Morehead State	D1/79	16/16
	RUNNING BACKS						
33	Bunch, Jarrod (FB)	6-2/248	8-9-68	4	Michigan	D1/91	13/8
	Downs, Gary	6-0/212	6-28-71	R	North Carolina State	D3/94	—
27	Hampton, Rodney	5-11/215	4-3-69	5	Georgia	D1/90	12/10
30	Meggett, David (KR/PR)	5-7/180	4-30-66	6	Towson State	D5/89	16/1
44	Rasheed, Kenyon (FB)	5-10/245	8-23-70	2	Oklahoma	FA/93	5/3
	RECEIVERS						
86	Brown, Derek (TE)	6-6/252	3-31-70	3	Notre Dame	D1/92	16/0
80	Calloway, Chris	5-10/185	3-29-68	5	Michigan	PlanB/92	16/9
85	Crawford, Keith	6-2/180	11-21-70	2	Howard Payne (Tex.)	FA/93	7/0
87	Cross, Howard (TE)	6-5/245	8-8-67	6	Alabama	D6/89	16/16
	Lewis, Thomas	6-1/185	1-10-72	R	Indiana	D1/94	—
	Marshall, Arthur (KR)	5-11/174	4-29-69	3	Georgia	T-Den/94	*16/9
81	McCaffrey, Ed	6-5/215	8-17-68	4	Stanford	D3/91	16/1
84	Pierce, Aaron (TE)	6-5/246	9-6-69	3	Washington	D3/92	13/6
88	Sherrard, Mike	6-2/187	6-21-63	9	UCLA	FA/93	6/5
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
78	Bishop, Greg (T)	6-5/298	5-2-71	2	Pacific	D4/93	8/0
62	Davis, Scott (G)	6-3/289	1-29-70	2	Iowa	D6/93	4/0
76	Elliott, John (T)	6-7/305	4-1-65	7	Michigan	D2/88	11/11
69	Johnson, Chuck (T)	6-3/280	5-22-69	3	Texas	FA/94	0/0
65	Oates, Bart (C)	6-3/265	12-16-58	10	Brigham Young	FA/85	16/15
72	Riesenberg, Doug (T)	6-5/275	7-22-65	8	California	D6/87	16/16
66	Roberts, William (G)	6-5/280	8-5-62	10	Ohio State	D1/84	16/16
61	Smith, Lance (G)	6-3/285	1-1-63	10	Louisiana State	FA/94	*16/16
59	Williams, Brian (C)	6-5/300	6-8-66	6	Minnesota	D1/89	16/1
	Winrow, Jason (G)	6-4/321	1-16-71	R	Ohio State	D6/94	—
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
	Bratzke, Chad (E)	6-4/262	9-15-71	R	Eastern Kentucky	D5/94	—
71	Dillard, Stacey (T)	6-5/288	9-17-68	3	Oklahoma	D6/92	16/16
95	Flythe, Mark (T)	6-7/290	10-4-68	2	Penn State	FA/93	2/0
93	Fox, Mike (E)	6-6/275	8-5-67	5	West Virginia	D2/90	16/16
75	Hamilton, Keith (E)	6-6/280	5-25-71	3	Pittsburgh	D4/92	16/16
74	Howard, Erik (T)	6-4/268	11-12-64	9	Washington State	D2/86	16/0
	Maumalanga, Chris (T)	6-2/288	12-15-71	R	Kansas	D4/94	—
96	McGhee, Kanavis (E)	6-4/257	10-4-68	4	Colorado	D2/91	10/1
92	Strahan, Mike (E)	6-4/275	11-21-71	R	Texas Southern	D2/93	—
90	Widmer, Corey (E)	6-3/276	12-25-68	3	Montana State	D7/92	11/0
	LINEBACKERS						
98	Armstead, Jessie	6-1/238	10-26-70	2	Miami (Fla.)	D8/93	16/0
54	Bailey, Carlton	6-3/235	12-15-64	7	North Carolina	FA/93	16/16
94	Brooks, Michael	6-1/235	3-2-64	8	Louisiana State	FA/93	13/13
55	Buckley, Marcus	6-3/235	2-3-71	2	Texas A&M	D3/93	16/2
58	Dent, Burnell	6-2/235	3-16-63	8	Tulane	FA/93	0/0
57	Miller, Corey	6-2/255	10-25-68	4	South Carolina	D6/91	16/14
51	Powell, Andre	6-1/226	6-5-69	2	Penn State	FA/93	15/1
97	Thigpen, Tommy	6-2/242	3-17-71	R	North Carolina	D5/93	—
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
21	Beamon, Willie (CB)	5-11/170	6-14-70	2	Northern Iowa	FA/93	13/0
37	Campbell, Jesse (S)	6-1/215	4-11-69	4	North Carolina State	FA/92	16/0
47	Jackson, Greg (S)	6-1/200	8-20-66	6	Louisiana State	D3/89	16/16
24	Jenkins, Izel (CB)	5-10/190	5-27-64	7	North Carolina State	FA/93	9/0
	Randolph, Thomas (CB)	5-9/176	10-5-70	R	Kansas State	D2/94	—
39	Raymond, Corey (CB)	5-11/180	9-28-69	3	Louisiana State	FA/92	16/8
	Sehorn, Jason (S)	6-2/212	6-15-71	R	Southern California	D2/94	—
	Smith, Joey	5-10/190	5-30-69	2	Louisville	FA/94	0/0
22	Sparks, Phillippi (CB)	5-11/186	4-15-69	3	Arizona State	D2/92	5/3
49	Tate, David (S)	6-1/200	11-22-64	7	Colorado	FA/93	14/1
	SPECIALISTS						
3	Daluiso, Brad (K)	6-2/207	12-31-67	4	UCLA	FA/93	15/0
2	Horan, Mike (P)	5-11/190	2-1-59	11	Long Beach State	FA/93	8/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Steve Brannon, DE; Leon Brown, RB; Ivory Dillard, OL; Donald Douglas, S; Omar Douglas, WR; Keith Elias, RB; Eric Gant, FB; Brian Kozlowski, TE; Dave Pyne, C; Leonard Ray, DT; Darren Reese, G; Shawn Smith, LB; William Townes, DT; Eric Weir, WR.
*Not with Giants in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

been erratic and he tends to get pushed around by bigger opponents. Steve Brannon, who could see action as a situational pass rusher, and the undersized Bratzke provide depth at end.

New York was effective stopping the run last season, and the presence of tackles Dillard and Howard points toward continued success. But depth at tackle is a problem.

LINEBACKERS—With Taylor gone, big-play specialist Michael Brooks will become the focus of this powerful group. As an inside linebacker last season, Brooks ranked second on the club with 92 tackles. He'll play the middle in '94.

In the 4-3 alignment, Carlton Bailey will play the strong side, while Corey Miller will patrol the weakside so he can use his pass-rush skills. Each will have more pass-coverage duties in the new scheme, but each should be up to the task.

Jessie Armstead, who will spell Bailey, is one of the league's top nickel linebackers and a fine special-teams player. Marcus Buckley will back up Miller and see action when the Giants revert to a 3-4 alignment.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Due to free-agent defections, the secondary is shaky.

Cornerbacks Mark Collins (to Kansas City), Perry Williams (to the Jets) and free safety Myron Guyton (to New England) have departed, leaving a mostly young but aggressive corps. A good pass rush will help mask this unit's inexperience.

Phillippi Sparks, limited to just five games last season with a right foot injury, will assume Collins' spot as the starting left cornerback. Sparks has played on the right side most of his career, but he's familiar with the left-corner slot. He's aggressive and isn't afraid to gamble. If he takes too many risks, though, it could be a long year.

Corey Raymond will start at right cornerback. He held his own in seven starts last year, but he's still developing. However, he could lose his job to second-round draft choice Thomas Randolph. The Kansas State product overcomes his lack of height (5-foot-9) with sprinter's speed and a 41-inch vertical leap.

Five-year veteran Greg Jackson and rookie Jason Sehorn will battle for Guyton's free-safety spot. Last year, Jackson tied for the team lead with four interceptions. Sehorn, a second-round draft pick from Southern California, spent his college career bouncing from position to position in the secondary. Jackson could move to strong safety if Sehorn, whose best position is free safety, shows any promise as a starter.

Three-year veteran Jesse Campbell, a special-teams player most of his career, figures to start at strong safety.

Willie Beamon and hard-hitting David Tate provide depth.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Now that kickoffs will originate from the 30-yard line, strong-legged Brad Daluiso will be the team's lone place-kicker. He needs to become a more accurate short-range field-goal kicker, a role the departed David Treadwell filled in '93. Daluiso attempted just three field goals (all from 50 or more yards) last year.

Last season, Mike Horan landed 13 punts inside the 20-yard line and averaged 42.8 yards per kick.

The return men are solid. Meggett averaged 10.3 yards per punt return and ran one back for a touchdown last season. He netted 16.8 yards on 24 kickoff returns. Marshall, who has slippery moves and sprinter's speed, is a welcome addition to the kickoff-return team. ◆

Eagles could face more changes unless team jells

By PHIL ANASTASIA
Camden Courier-Post

Owner Norman Braman, Seth Joyner and Clyde Simmons are all gone.

But the Eagles still have Randall Cunningham, Coach Rich Kotite and a recognizable group of athletes, coaches and administrators who serve as links to past seasons.

But no team has undergone more dramatic changes over the last few years than the Eagles, who will field another remade team for 1994.

"That's just the nature of things around here," said Kotite, who could be gone if the Eagles don't make a strong run for the playoffs this season. "I don't know about other teams. But it's par for the course for us."

The Eagles have a new owner in Jeffrey Lurie, who paid a record $185 million to purchase the team from Braman. Lurie was not expected to make any major changes immediately, but it's no secret that he will use 1994 to evaluate the coaches, players and front-office personnel in the franchise.

The Eagles will have a new look, with the arrival of veterans William Fuller, Burt Grossman, Bill Romanowski and rookies Bernard Williams and Charlie Garner.

Cunningham, who missed most of 1991 and 1993 with leg injuries, is expected back at full health for 1994. He will lead a wildly entertaining offense, if wide receiver Fred Barnett bounces back from injury and the rookies play well.

The defense will be another story, where the Eagles still have a few remaining stars in cornerback Eric Allen and middle linebacker Byron Evans. Both could be gone next season. Change, change, change.

COACHING

Kotite is on the hot seat. He has a winning record after three seasons as the Eagles' coach, but it's no secret that Lurie might be looking for a more dynamic leader.

Lurie is believed to have spoken with Jimmy Johnson shortly after agreeing to purchase the team. It's not clear whether Lurie offered Johnson a job, but it's clear that Kotite has to make a favorable impression this season to keep his.

This is Kotite's team. With the departure of linebacker Joyner and defensive end Simmons, nearly all the traces of Buddy Ryan are gone. If the Eagles make the playoffs, it will be with a team that Kotite put together. Of course, the same goes for another non-playoff season.

Kotite is a bit of a control freak, and that is reflected in his handling of the offense. He made Zeke Bratkowski his offensive coordinator before the 1993 season but took over play-calling and many game-planning duties at midseason and plans to keep that control this season.

The defense belongs to Bud Carson, who pondered retirement after last season but decided to come back for another run. Carson has lost standouts like Jerome Brown, Reggie White and Joyner in recent seasons, and he'll have to build a new defense using newcomers Fuller, Romanowski and Grossman.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Cunningham is no longer a young star on the rise. He's 31, in his 10th professional season, and needs to prove he can lead a team deep into the playoffs.

Cunningham's health is a question, too. He has missed most of two of the last three seasons with injuries to his left leg, so his ability to remain a scrambler is in doubt. If he's healthy and focused, Cunningham will be a highly productive player. He has a good supporting cast, with the best line he has ever worked behind and a good receiving corps.

The team considered trading Cunningham during the 1994 draft, and Lurie might make a move if his talented quarterback goes through another season of wild inconsistency.

The backup situation is solid. The Eagles re-signed Bubby Brister after Brister blew an opportunity to secure a starting job in New Orleans. Brister came on strong in relief of Cunningham late last season and is capable of running the show if Cunningham goes down again.

RUNNING BACKS—Herschel Walker has evolved into an all-purpose player for the Eagles.

JEFF FISHBEIN

Running back Herschel Walker has evolved into an all-purpose player for Philadelphia.

Walker, who ran for 1,070 yards in 1992, was used differently in 1993, blocking and catching more while rushing less. At 32, he is still a valuable, versatile player.

The Eagles have high hopes for Garner, a second-round draft choice from Tennessee who has the talent to provide the Eagles with the kind of quick, breakaway back they have lacked. Fullback James Joseph is a good blocker, decent receiver and can play some tight end. He'll see plenty of action as a complement to both Garner and Walker.

Heath Sherman, the Eagles' best runner in the second half of the 1990 and 1992 seasons, provides solid depth. He can play both fullback and halfback.

Tony Brooks and Vaughn Hebron are

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Randall Cunningham is a big-play athlete capable of carrying the team for long stretches. He might be more relaxed this season, since he often felt threatened as a leader by the outspoken Seth Joyner. Despite massive defections, the roster still includes big-time players such as wide receiver Fred Barnett, running back Herschel Walker, cornerback Eric Allen, linebacker Byron Evans and newly acquired defensive end William Fuller.

Weaknesses: The Eagles lost more than two players when Joyner and Clyde Simmons left for the Cardinals as free agents. Those two were locker-room leaders, and their absence will be felt by the remaining defensive stars such as Allen and Evans. Also, the tremendous upheaval of the last few years has left the team without an identity.

Keys to success: Cunningham must stay healthy. When he has played a full season, the Eagles have made the playoffs four years in a row. A quick start will take some of the pressure off the coaching staff and allow the newcomers, like Fuller and linebacker Bill Romanowski, to mesh with the leftovers. An injury to Cunningham, Evans or Allen could be deadly. A slow start could create a crisis, since the coaches will be under pressure to prove themselves to new Owner Jeffrey Lurie.

That's a fact: The Eagles have won 60 regular-season games since 1988. Only San Francisco and Buffalo have won more.

Coach Rich Kotite says: "Despite everything that's happened, we still have the talent here to go a long way. Our goal is the same. We still plan on making the playoffs and doing something once we get there."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Barnett	Bailey	Richardson
LT	B. Williams	Thompson	McHale
LG	Thompson	Floyd	Schad
C	Alexander	Panos	Hudson
RG	Holmes	Panos	Hallstrom
RT	Davis	Thompson	McHale
TE	Bavaro	Johnson	
WR	C. Williams	Bailey	Sydner
QB	Cunningham	Brister	Jones
FB	Joseph	Sherman	Brooks
RB	H. Walker	Garner	Hebron

DEFENSE

LE	Fuller	Grossman	Flores
LT	Harmon	B. Walker	Jeter
RT	Perry	Renfro	Chalenski
RE	Harris	Grossman	Flores
LLB	Romanowski	Hager	
MLB	Evans	Oden	McCoy
RLB	W. Thomas	Hager	Rose
LCB	McMillian	Frazier	Barlow
RCB	Allen	O. Smith	Barlow
SS	Reid	Zomalt	Waters
FS	Miano	O. Smith	Goodwin

SPECIALISTS

K	Murray	Cunningham	
P	Berger	Cunningham	
KR	Sydner	Garner	
PR	Bailey	Sydner	

young players with potential, but the Eagles' decision to draft Garner reflects the organization's lack of confidence in both of them.

RECEIVERS—The Eagles have talent and depth in this department. They have a legitimate star in Barnett, a highly productive complementary player in Calvin Williams, a youngster on the rise in Victor Bailey and a seasoned tight end in Mark Bavaro.

Barnett missed the final 12 games of 1993, but he is expected back at full strength after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery. He has great speed and athletic ability. Barnett's absence last season really hurt the passing game. As the Eagles' only deep threat, he can stretch defenses, opening the middle for Williams and Bavaro.

Williams doesn't have great speed but runs excellent patterns and has sure hands. He knows how to get into the end zone, with 29 touchdowns in his first four seasons.

Bailey is a big, strong receiver. He doesn't have great deep speed but works well across the middle. Bavaro's health is an issue. But he avoided injuries in 1993, blocking well and catching 43 passes. The Eagles need another productive season from him, since reserve tight end Maurice Johnson is a limited player.

LINEMEN—Not long ago, this was a big weakness for the Eagles. Now, it's a comparative strength.

Under Kotite, the Eagles have used four of their five No. 1 draft picks on offensive linemen. The result is an imposing group that, if the members stay healthy and come together, could become a dominant force.

Antone Davis is a solid professional, with the versatility to swing from his right-tackle spot to left guard if the Eagles choose to reshuffle the line. Davis also weighs 330 pounds, which provides a lot of punch to the ground game. Lester Holmes, at right guard, came on strong late in 1993 and could be on the verge of a big season.

Bernard Williams, a first-round pick from Georgia, will open at left tackle. If he can handle that demanding position as a rookie, the Eagles will move Broderick Thompson, last year's left tackle. The versatile Thompson can play either left guard or right tackle.

If Williams struggles, the Eagles will use Thompson at left tackle and insert Eric Floyd at left guard. Floyd started at right guard in 1992 but suffered a severe knee injury last season.

The center will be solid veteran Dave Alexander. He is a smart, undersized player with good pass-blocking skills but little run-blocking power. He will be backed up by rookie Joe Panos.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—As recently as 1991, the Eagles had the NFL's top-rated defense—thanks to a dominant line. But all those linemen are gone.

The new line has some promise. Left end Fuller was signed as a free agent from Houston and should provide a pass rush and solid all-around play.

Grossman arrived in a trade from San Diego. He's a versatile player who can back up Fuller, work some at right end and even swing inside on passing downs. If nothing else, Grossman will help the pass rush.

Tackle Andy Harmon, who led the team with 11½ sacks last season, is an emerging star. The Eagles like to rotate their tackles, so William Perry, Leonard Renfro and rookie Bruce Walker will see action along the interior of the line. Perry remains a good run defender.

The right end probably will be Tim Harris, whose injuries and off-the-field problems led the Eagles to consider releasing him. But Harris can rush the passer, and if he can stay healthy and focused, he could be a valuable player for the Eagles.

LINEBACKERS—Romanowski is the big addition at this position. The Eagles traded draft picks to San Francisco to acquire him as a replacement for Joyner at left linebacker. Romanowski is a solid player, but he

Continued

1994 PHILADELPHIA EAGLES ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
6	Brister, Bubby	6-3/207	8-15-62	9	Northeast Louisiana	FA/93	10/8
12	Cunningham, Randall	6-4/205	3-27-63	10	UNLV	D2/85	4/4
	RUNNING BACKS						
39	Brooks, Tony (FB)	6-0/230	8-17-69	3	Notre Dame	D4/92	0/0
36	Garner, Charlie (KR)	5-9/181	2-13-72	R	Tennessee	D2/94	—
45	Hebron, Vaughn	5-8/196	10-7-70	2	Virginia Tech	FA/93	16/4
32	Joseph, James (FB)	6-2/222	10-28-67	4	Auburn	D7/91	16/5
25	Montgomery, Mark (FB)	5-11/220	2-19-72	R	Wisconsin	D7/94	—
23	Sherman, Heath (FB)	6-0/205	3-27-67	6	Texas A&I	D6/89	15/7
34	Walker, Herschel	6-1/225	3-3-62	9	Georgia	FA/92	16/16
	RECEIVERS						
82	Bailey, Victor (PR)	6-2/196	7-30-70	2	Missouri	D2/93	16/10
86	Barnett, Fred	6-0/199	6-17-66	5	Arkansas State	D3/90	4/4
84	Bavaro, Mark (TE)	6-4/245	4-28-63	9	Notre Dame	FA/93	16/16
87	Johnson, Maurice (TE)	6-2/243	1-9-67	4	Temple	FA/91	16/2
19	Lawrence, Reggie	6-0/178	4-12-70	1	North Carolina State	FA/93	1/0
81	Richardson, Paul	6-3/204	2-25-69	1	UCLA	FA/93	1/0
85	Sydner, Jeff (KR/PR)	5-6/170	11-11-69	3	Hawaii	D6/92	4/0
89	Williams, Calvin	5-11/190	3-3-67	5	Purdue	D5/90	16/14
83	Young, Mike	6-1/183	2-21-62	10	UCLA	FA/93	10/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
72	Alexander, David (C)	6-3/275	7-28-64	8	Tulsa	D5/87	16/16
62	Baldinger, Brian (G/T)	6-4/278	1-7-60	13	Duke	FA/92	12/4
78	Davis, Antone (T)	6-4/330	2-28-67	4	Tennessee	D1/91	16/16
61	Floyd, Eric (G)	6-5/310	10-28-65	5	Auburn	PlanB/92	3/3
65	Hailstrom, Ron (G)	6-6/315	6-11-59	12	Iowa	FA/93	12/8
73	Holmes, Lester (G)	6-3/301	9-27-69	R	Jackson State	D1/93	—
66	Hudson, John (G/C)	6-2/275	1-29-68	5	Auburn	D11/90	16/0
68	McHale, Tom (T)	6-4/290	2-25-63	8	Cornell	FA/93	8/4
63	Panos, Joe (G/C)	6-2/296	1-24-71	R	Wisconsin	D3/94	—
79	Schad, Mike (G)	6-5/290	10-2-63	9	Queen's (Canada)	PlanB/89	13/13
75	Selby, Rob (G)	6-3/286	10-11-67	4	Auburn	D3/91	1/0
76	Thompson, Broderick (G/T)	6-5/295	8-14-60	9	Kansas	T-SD/93	10/10
74	Williams, Bernard (T)	6-8/317	7-18-72	R	Georgia	D1/94	—
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
71	Chalenski, Mike (T)	6-5/288	1-28-70	2	UCLA	FA/93	15/0
95	Flores, Mike (E)	6-3/256	12-1-66	4	Louisville	D11/91	16/11
93	Fuller, William (E)	6-3/274	3-8-62	9	North Carolina	FA/94	*16/16
69	Grossman, Burt (E)	6-4/275	4-10-67	6	Pittsburgh	T-SD/94	*10/10
91	Harmon, Andy (T)	6-4/265	4-6-69	4	Kent	D6/91	16/15
97	Harris, Tim (E)	6-6/258	9-10-64	9	Memphis State	FA/93	4/3
98	Jeter, Tommy (T)	6-5/282	9-20-69	3	Texas	D3/92	7/0
90	Perry, William (T)	6-2/335	12-16-62	10	Clemson	W-Chi/93	*15/8
94	Renfro, Leonard (T)	6-2/291	6-29-70	2	Colorado	D1/93	14/2
92	Walker, Bruce (T)	6-3/326	7-18-72	R	UCLA	D2/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
56	Evans, Byron	6-2/235	2-23-64	8	Arizona	D4/87	11/10
54	Hager, Britt	6-1/225	2-20-66	6	Texas	D3/89	16/7
52	McCoy, Ryan	6-2/237	3-13-72	R	Houston	D6/94	—
58	Oden, Derrick	5-11/230	9-29-70	2	Alabama	D6/93	12/0
53	Romanowski, Bill	6-4/231	4-2-66	7	Boston College	T-SF/94	*16/16
55	Rose, Ken	6-1/215	6-9-62	8	UNLV	FA/90	5/0
51	Thomas, William	6-2/218	8-13-68	4	Texas A&M	D4/91	16/16
57	Woodard, Marc	6-0/234	2-21-70	1	Mississippi State	D5/93	0/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
21	Allen, Eric (CB)	5-10/180	11-22-65	7	Arizona State	D2/88	16/16
24	Barlow, Corey (CB)	5-9/182	11-1-70	2	Auburn	D5/91	10/0
37	Frazier, Derrick (CB)	5-10/178	4-29-70	1	Texas A&M	D3/93	0/0
33	Frizzell, William (S)	6-3/206	9-8-62	11	North Carolina Central	FA/92	16/2
22	Goodwin, Marvin (S)	6-0/199	9-21-72	R	UCLA	D5/94	—
29	McMillian, Mark (CB)	5-7/162	4-29-70	3	Alabama	D10/92	16/12
38	Miano, Rich (S)	6-1/200	9-3-62	10	Hawaii	FA/91	16/14
42	Reid, Mike (S)	6-1/218	11-24-70	2	North Carolina State	D3/93	9/0
30	Smith, Otis (CB/S)	5-11/184	10-22-65	5	Missouri	FA/90	15/0
20	Waters, Andre (S)	5-11/200	3-10-62	11	Cheyney, Pa.	FA/84	9/8
27	Zomalt, Eric (S)	5-11/197	8-9-72	R	California	D3/94	—
	SPECIALISTS						
17	Berger, Mitch (P)	6-2/231	6-24-72	R	Colorado	D6/94	—
3	Murray, Eddie (K)	5-11/195	8-29-56	16	Tulane	FA/94	*14/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Alonza Barnett, CB; Curt Brown, DT; Darrell Clapp, G/T; Jeff Cummins, DE; Chris Dausin, C; Mark Dixon, G; Jay Fiedler, QB; David Gamble, WR; Tom Garlick, WR; Ray Hall, DT; Al Jackson, CB; Preston Jones, QB; Dewayne Knight, S; Darrell Lewis, S; Jason McGill, WR; Mike McKenzie, TE; Jaime Mendez, S; Derrick Miller, WR; Matt Morrill, DL; Brian O'Neal, FB; Peter Pale, G; Chris Schrock, P; William Shankle, CB; Erik Simien, LB; Herman Smith, DE; Jemone Smith, WR; Steve Starcevich, K; Markus Thomas, RB; Al Wooten, FB.
*Not with Eagles in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Rich Kotite.
Assistant coaches: • Zeke Bratkowski (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks) • Lew Carpenter (receivers and tight ends) • Bud Carson (defensive coordinator/secondary) • Peter Giunta (defensive assistant) • Bobby Hammond (offensive and special teams assistant) • Dale Haupt (defensive line) • Bill Muir (offensive line) • Larry Pasquale (special teams coordinator) • Jim Vechiarella (linebackers) • Jim Williams (strength and conditioning) • Richard Wood (offensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 8-8 (3rd in NFC East); 3-5 in division; 6-6 in conference; 3-5 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Kotite's regular-season record: 29-19 in three seasons with Eagles.
Kotite's postseason record: 1-1 in one playoff with Eagles.
Team record last five years: 50-30 (.625, ranks T5th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	6	15
Rushing offense	8	15
Passing offense	6	16
Scoring offense	8	17
Total defense	9	17
Rushing defense	12	24
Passing defense	5	8
Scoring defense	9	19
Takeaways	T1	T7
Giveaways	T10	T18
Turnover differential	5	13
Sacks	8	15
Sacks allowed	12	20

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Bernard Williams	T	Georgia
2nd	Bruce Walker	DT	UCLA
2nd	Charlie Garner	RB	Tennessee
3rd	Joe Panos	G/C	Wisconsin
3rd	Eric Zomalt	SS	California
5th	Marvin Goodwin	FS	UCLA
6th	Ryan McCoy	LB	Houston
6th	Mitch Berger	P	Colorado
7th	Mark Montgomery	FB	Wisconsin

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Sept.	12	CHICAGO (Mon.)	9:00
Sept.	18	GREEN BAY	1:00
Sept.	25	Open date	
Oct.	2	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct.	9	WASHINGTON	8:00
Oct.	16	at Dallas	3:00
Oct.	24	HOUSTON (Mon.)	9:00
Oct.	30	at Washington	1:00
Nov.	6	ARIZONA	4:00
Nov.	13	CLEVELAND	1:00
Nov.	20	at Arizona	2:00
Nov.	27	at Atlanta	1:00
Dec.	4	DALLAS	1:00
Dec.	11	at Pittsburgh	1:00
Dec.	18	N.Y. GIANTS	4:00
Dec.	24	at Cincinnati (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	PHOENIX	W	23-17
Sept.	12	at Green Bay	W	20-17
Sept.	19	WASHINGTON	W	34-31
Sept.	26	Open date		
Oct.	3	at N.Y. Jets	W	35-30
Oct.	10	CHICAGO	L	6-17
Oct.	17	at N.Y. Giants	L	10-21
Oct.	24	Open date		
Oct.	31	DALLAS	L	10-23
Nov.	7	at Phoenix	L	3-16
Nov.	14	MIAMI	L	14-19
Nov.	21	N.Y. GIANTS	L	3-7
Nov.	28	at Washington	W	17-14
Dec.	6	at Dallas	L	17-23
Dec.	12	BUFFALO	L	7-10
Dec.	19	at Indianapolis	W	20-10
Dec.	26	NEW ORLEANS	W	37-26
Jan.	3	at San Francisco (OT)	W	37-34

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Veterans Stadium (65,178, artificial) • Ticket information: 215-463-5500 • Flagship radio station: WYSP, 94.1 FM • Training site: West Chester University, West Chester, Pa.; 215-463-2500.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Jeffrey Lurie paid $185 million to purchase the Eagles, the highest price ever for a sports franchise?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Eric Allen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Victor Bailey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mark Bavaro	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Bubby Brister	6	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
R. Cunningham	2	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Byron Evans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vaughn Hebron	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
James Joseph	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Eddie Murray	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	8	3	38	—	—
Heath Sherman	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Herschel Walker	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Calvin Williams	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	6	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	10
Mike Young	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

TOM BERG

Eric Allen may be the best cornerback in the National Football League.

lacks Joyner's speed and big-play ability.

Middle linebacker Evans is an excellent player. He is a heavy hitter who could be on the verge of Pro Bowl recognition. Right linebacker William Thomas came on strong in 1993 and could pick up some of the big-play slack.

Depth is a concern, although the Eagles have a solid backup in Britt Hager, who can play all three positions.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—It's Pro Bowl cornerback Allen and a bunch of question marks.

Allen, the right cornerback, might be the best in the business. He tied an NFL record by returning four interceptions for touchdowns in 1993. The left cornerback will be either undersized Mark McMillian or second-year man Derrick Frazier, who sat out all of 1993 with a knee injury. Corey Barlow also figures to see action as a cornerback.

The safety spots are unsettled. The Eagles wanted Ben Smith to play safety, but he balked and was traded to Denver. Mike Reid is a promising young player who can work at either safety spot. The Eagles also hope to squeeze another year out of veterans Rich Miano and Andre Waters, a heavy hitter who lacks range in coverage.

Rookies Eric Zomalt and Marvin Goodwin also figure in the mix at safety. One or both could see significant playing time.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Eagles made a bold move in free agency, signing Dallas kicker Eddie Murray. He's a reliable veteran. But at age 38, his leg strength and durability are concerns, especially with kickoffs coming from the 30-yard line this season.

The Eagles need a new return man since Vai Sikahema retired. The top candidate is Jeff Sydner, who has good speed and moves but has been inconsistent. Bailey and Garner also have the ability to return kicks.

The Eagles lost punter Jeff Feagles to free agency. They will find a new punter in training camp, with rookie Mitch Berger the top candidate. ◆

Redskins look for new coach to be a tide-turner

By VITO STELLINO
Baltimore Morning Sun

The Washington Redskins have suddenly become a Not Ready for Prime Time team.

After they fell from Super Bowl champions to 4-12 in just two years, the Redskins were banished from this season's Monday Night Football schedule for the first time since 1982.

That's one more example of the downward spiral the team has taken since Joe Gibbs quit as coach on March 5, 1993.

Richie Petitbon lasted 10 months as Gibbs' replacement before he was fired after winning just those four games. And now the job is in the hands of Norv Turner.

Turner, who was the offensive guru for the Cowboys the last two seasons when they won the Super Bowl, was brought in to revive the team. His first move in the rebuilding process was to sweep out longtime standouts Art Monk, Mark Rypien, Earnest Byner, Joe Jacoby, Jeff Bostic, Charles Mann and Ricky Sanders.

That leaves only four offensive starters and five defensive starters from the team that shredded the Bills, 37-24, in Super Bowl XXVI on January 26, 1992.

To remake the team, Turner has brought in rookie quarterback Heath Shuler, the third player picked in the draft, and a bevy of free agents, including linebacker Ken Harvey, center John Gesek, tight end Ethan Horton and wide receiver Henry Ellard.

Trying to meld so many new players together is a difficult job, but Turner liked the spirit the players displayed at their minicamp after the draft.

"You can talk about enthusiasm or competitiveness or however you want to describe it," he said. "That's been the best thing about what we've done. If they keep that approach, we have a chance to be a good team."

COACHING

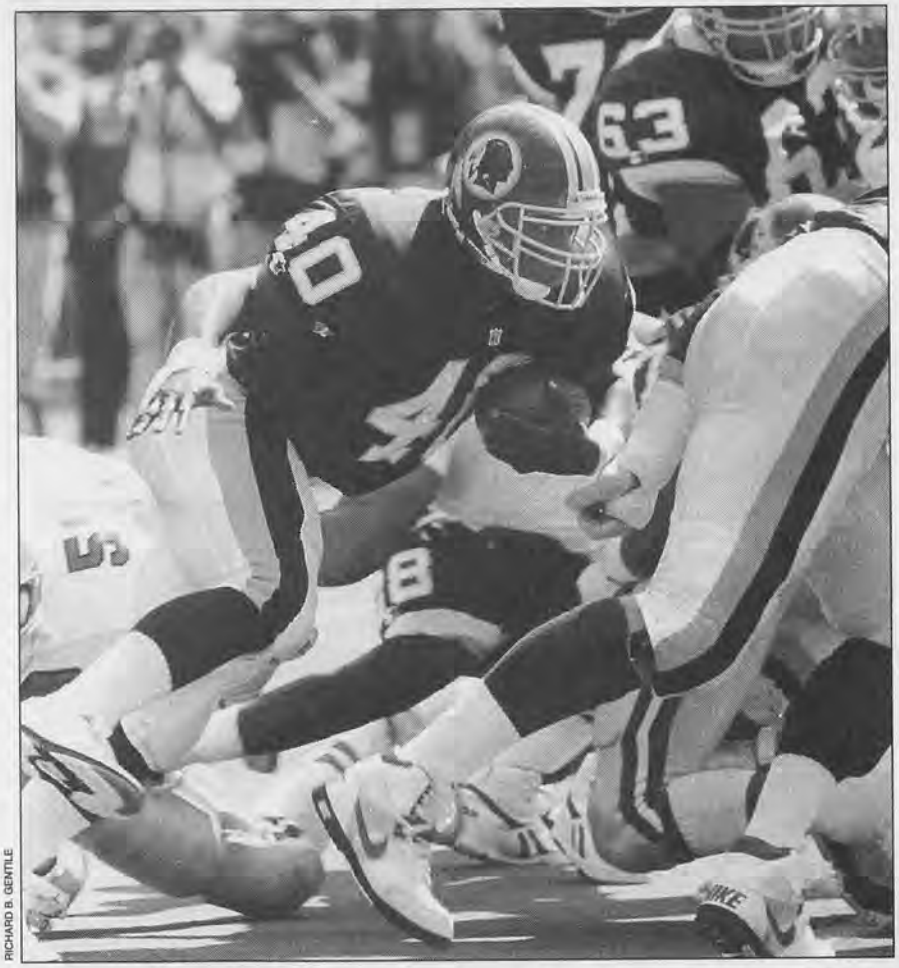
After the Cowboys won their second consecutive Super Bowl in January, Turner was the most coveted assistant coach in the league. He chose Washington over Arizona and now has to prove he can make a successful leap to head coaching.

Since Turner has never been a head coach at any level, it's difficult to predict how he will make the transition. In Dallas, star players Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman gave him a lot of credit for the team's success.

Turner's supporters note he had no trouble making the transition from tight ends and receivers coach for the Rams to the coordinator's job in Dallas in 1991. They also predict he will have no trouble adjusting to head coaching.

But the Redskins gambled when they offered him the job without interviewing other candidates. Now it's up to Turner to justify the Redskins' faith in him.

Continued



RICHARD B. GENTILE

A key to the offense is the ability of Reggie Brooks to gain a lot of yardage on the ground. Brooks did just that last season, when he became the first Washington rookie to top 1,000 yards rushing.

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: A strong ground game featuring Reggie Brooks running behind a veteran offensive line—a line that can control the line of scrimmage if it stays healthy. A ball-control game will enable the Redskins to set the tempo, keep their defense off the field and take the pressure off the passing game.

Weaknesses: The passing game is suspect because the Redskins will be going with a rookie, Heath Shuler, at quarterback, and he will be throwing to a new receiving corps that hasn't worked together. The defense—particularly against the run—figures to be porous again. After ranking 26th in yards allowed last season, Washington's defense has added only one impact player, Ken Harvey.

Key to success: Brooks needs to rush for at least 1,500 yards so the Redskins can control games on the ground and give Shuler time to develop without defenses teeing off on him.

That's a fact: Brooks became the first Redskins rookie to rush for 1,000 yards when he gained 1,063 last season to finish sixth in the NFC. He had runs of 85 yards against the Eagles (longest in the NFL last year and second-longest in team history) and 78 yards against the Buccaneers, which was the second-longest run in the league in 1993.

Coach Norv Turner says: "The things that excite me about being here are the great tradition of this football team, being in Washington with the national spotlight and being around people who are committed to winning."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Ellard	Winans	Clifton
LT	Lachey	Elewonibi	Moore
LG	Brown	McKenzie	V. Smith
C	Gesek	McKenzie	Matich
RG	McKenzie	Schlereth	V. Smith
RT	E. Simmons	Tr. Johnson	Elewonibi
TE	Horton	Middleton	Haws
WR	Howard	Hobbs	Stock
QB	Shuler	Friesz	O'Hara
RB	Brooks	Ervins	Mitchell
FB	Wycheck	Middleton	Mitchell

DEFENSE

LE	S. Collins	Buck	
LT	Wilson	Faulkner	
RT	Ti. Johnson	Buck	
RE	Woods	Palmer	
LLB	Harvey	Coleman	
MLB	Gouveia	Hamilton	
RLB	A. Collins	Coleman	Hollinquest
LCB	Carter	A. Johnson	Thomas
RCB	Green	Mays	Morrison
SS	Taylor	Morrison	Eilers
FS	Edwards	Eilers	

SPECIALISTS

K	Lohmiller	KR	Mitchell	Howard	Ervins
P	Roby	PR	Mitchell	Howard	Green

WASHINGTON REDSKINS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Norv Turner.
Assistant coaches: • Jason Arapoff (assistant strength) • Cam Cameron (quarterbacks) • Russ Grimm (tight ends) • Mike Haluchak (linebackers) • Jim Hanifan (offensive line) • Ray Horton (defensive assistant) • Bobby Jackson (running backs) • Bob Karmelowicz (defensive line) • Ron Lynn (defensive coordinator) • Dan Riley (strength) • Terry Robiskie (wide receivers) • Pete Rodriguez (special teams) • Emmitt Thomas (defensive backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 4-12 (5th in NFC East); 1-7 in division; 3-9 in conference; 3-5 at home; 1-7 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Turner's regular-season record: First season as NFL head coach.
Team record last five years: 47-33 (.588, ranks 9th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	13	26
Rushing offense	9	16
Passing offense	13	26
Scoring offense	13	25
Total defense	14	26
Rushing defense	14	26
Passing defense	12	20
Scoring defense	11	23
Takeaways	5	T12
Giveaways	T7	T14
Turnover differential	T6	T14
Sacks	12	23
Sacks allowed	T8	T16

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Heath Shuler	QB	Tennessee
2nd	Tre Johnson	T	Temple
3rd	Tydus Winans	WR	Fresno State
3rd	Joe Patton	G	Alabama A&M
4th	Kurt Haws	TE	Utah
6th	Dexter Nottage	DE	Florida A&M
7th	Gus Frerotte	QB	Tulsa

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	SEATTLE	1:00
Sept. 11	at New Orleans	3:00
Sept. 18	at N.Y. Giants	4:00
Sept. 25	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 2	DALLAS	1:00
Oct. 9	at Philadelphia	8:00
Oct. 16	ARIZONA	1:00
Oct. 23	at Indianapolis	12:00
Oct. 30	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Nov. 6	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Nov. 13	Open date	
Nov. 20	at Dallas	12:00
Nov. 27	N.Y. GIANTS	4:00
Dec. 4	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 11	at Arizona	2:00
Dec. 18	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Dec. 24	at L.A. Rams (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept. 6	DALLAS	W	35-16
Sept. 12	PHOENIX	L	10-17
Sept. 19	at Philadelphia	L	31-34
Sept. 26	Open date		
Oct. 4	at Miami	L	10-17
Oct. 10	N.Y. GIANTS	L	7-41
Oct. 17	at Phoenix	L	6-36
Oct. 24	Open date		
Nov. 1	at Buffalo	L	10-24
Nov. 7	INDIANAPOLIS	W	30-24
Nov. 14	at N.Y. Giants	L	6-20
Nov. 21	at L.A. Rams	L	6-10
Nov. 28	PHILADELPHIA	L	14-17
Dec. 5	at Tampa Bay	W	23-17
Dec. 11	N.Y. JETS	L	0-3
Dec. 19	ATLANTA	W	30-17
Dec. 26	at Dallas	L	3-38
Dec. 31	MINNESOTA	L	9-14

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (56,454, grass) • Ticket information: 202-546-2222 • Flagship radio station: WTEM, 570 AM • Training site: Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa.; 717-245-1140.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Redskins' four victories last season marked their lowest total in three decades, since the team won only three times in 1963?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Reggie Brooks	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Monte Coleman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Henry Ellard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2
John Friesz	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Kurt Gouveia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Darrell Green	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Ethan Horton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
A.J. Johnson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chip Lohmiller	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	1	1	24	—	—
Ron Middleton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Brian Mitchell	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—It's difficult to underestimate what Shuler means to the Redskins. Their future for the next decade or so is riding on his shoulders.

If Shuler lives up to the billing he got before the Redskins drafted him, Washington will not have to worry about the quarterback position again until the 21st Century.

General Manager Charley Casserly says he doesn't rate Shuler with Aikman or Drew Bledsoe, but he says Shuler has all the physical tools to be a franchise quarterback.

Even though Shuler, at 6-foot-2 and 221 pounds, has the classic quarterback build and a strong arm, the key will be how he handles the pressure of being a quarterback in Washington.

Only six men—Sonny Jurgensen, Bill Kilmer, Joe Theismann, Jay Schroeder, Doug Williams and Mark Rypien—have held the job on a full-time basis in the last 30 years. Jurgensen made the Hall of Fame and Kilmer, Theismann, Williams and Rypien took teams to the Super Bowl.

With expectations high in Washington, the Redskins may rush Shuler into the lineup before he is ready. Former San Diego quarterback John Friesz was signed as a backup, just in case Shuler gets off to a slow start.

Pat O'Hara and rookie Gus Frerotte will fight for the No. 3 job.

RUNNING BACKS—Can Reggie Brooks do for the Redskins what Emmitt Smith has done for the Cowboys?

The answer to that question may determine what kind of offense the Redskins have. Since Washington is breaking in a rookie quarterback, Turner wants to run a low-risk offense that features Brooks' running.

Brooks, who became the club's first rookie to top 1,000 yards rushing, showed he could break the long run—he turned in 15 runs of 15 yards or longer. He is likely to carry 20 to 25 times a game and will run the lead

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Ricky Ervins has struggled the last two years and will remain a backup running back.

draw that was Smith's bread-and-butter play in Dallas.

If Brooks can gain a lot of yardage on the ground, the Redskins will keep Shuler out of obvious passing downs when the defense can tee off on him. But if Brooks is stopped and the Redskins have to rely on the pass, they will have problems.

Ricky Ervins, who was impressive as a rookie in '91 but struggled the last two years, will be Brooks' backup.

The Redskins also plan to switch from their traditional one-back offense to a two-back alignment with a blocking fullback. Though they failed to lure Daryl Johnston from Dallas, they hope Frank Wycheck, who showed blocking skills as a rookie tight end, will fill that role.

RECEIVERS—When the Redskins won the Super Bowl two years ago, this was one of the strongest parts of the team. Now it's one of the weakest.

Gary Clark, Monk and Sanders, the three members of the Posse, are gone. Clark went to Arizona as a free agent a year ago. Monk and Sanders rejected contract offers in the off-season and were written out of the Redskins' plans.

That means the Redskins' receiving corps will consist of Desmond Howard, who has yet to live up to his Heisman Trophy form; Ellard, who may be too old at 33 to have much of an impact after signing as a free agent from the Rams; and rookie Tydus Winans, who may be too young to make a major contribution.

Add to that the fact the Redskins will have a rookie quarterback running a simplified offense, and it doesn't appear they will have much of a passing game.

RICHARD B. GENTILE

Guard Mark Schlereth has been plagued with injuries in recent years.

The Redskins plan to throw more to the tight end this season, with former Raider Horton, who signed as a free agent, playing the role Jay Novacek had in Dallas. The Redskins plan to use him in medium routes over the middle.

LINEMEN—This is a major question mark for the Redskins. If the linemen stay healthy, they could open the holes for Brooks and enable the Redskins to run a ball-control offense that takes a lot of time off the clock and keeps the defense off the field.

If they are riddled with injuries the way they were last season, the Redskins will be scrambling.

The key is whether Jim Lachey can make a comeback at left tackle. He was one of the best before he suffered a knee injury in training camp that knocked him out of the lineup for the season. The Redskins never overcame his loss.

If Lachey is as good as ever, he will anchor the line. Ed Simmons, who missed three games at right tackle with a knee injury, is solid when he's healthy, although he will be pushed by rookie Tre Johnson.

Gesek, signed as a free agent from Dallas, steps into the center position. That will free Raleigh McKenzie to move to right guard in place of Mark Schlereth, who has been plagued with injuries in recent years. Handyman Ray Brown, who can play tackle and guard, will start at left guard.

This line can get the job done if it stays healthy. That's a big if.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This will be a problem area.

The Redskins lack a big run-stuffer and a pass rusher. They can count on tackle Tim Johnson, but there are question marks about the rest of the line. Opposing teams may be able to shred their run defense.

Two of the ends, Shane Collins (sprained

Continued

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Brian Mitchell is one of the best return men in the league.

1994 WASHINGTON REDSKINS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
14	Frerotte, Gus	6-2/222	7-31-71	R	Tulsa	D7/94	—
19	Friesz, John	6-4/218	5-19-67	4	Idaho	FA/94	*12/6
5	Shuler, Heath	6-2/221	12-31-71	R	Tennessee	D1/94	—
	RUNNING BACKS						
40	Brooks, Reggie	5-8/202	1-19-71	2	Notre Dame	D2/93	16/11
32	Ervins, Ricky (KR)	5-7/195	12-7-68	4	Southern California	D3/91	15/1
30	Mitchell, Brian (KR/PR)	5-10/203	8-18-68	5	Southwestern Louisiana	D5/90	16/4
37	Smith, Cedric (FB)	5-10/222	5-27-68	4	Florida	FA/94	0/0
22	Wycheck, Frank (FB)	6-3/235	10-14-71	2	Maryland	D6/93	9/7
	RECEIVERS						
31	Clifton, Greg	5-11/175	2-6-68	2	Johnson C. Smith (N.C.)	FA/93	2/0
85	Ellard, Henry	5-11/182	7-21-61	12	Fresno State	FA/94	*16/16
48	Haws, Kurt (TE)	6-5/248	9-25-69	R	Utah	D4/94	—
86	Hobbs, Stephen	5-11/200	11-14-65	6	North Alabama	PlanB/89	0/0
89	Horton, Ethan (TE)	6-4/240	12-19-62	8	North Carolina	FA/94	*16/16
80	Howard, Desmond (KR/PR)	5-9/180	5-15-70	3	Michigan	D2/92	16/5
88	Jenkins, James (TE)	6-2/241	8-17-67	4	Rutgers	FA/91	15/5
87	Middleton, Ron (TE/FB)	6-2/262	7-17-65	9	Auburn	PlanB/90	16/1682
	Rowe, Ray (TE)	6-2/256	7-28-69	3	San Diego State	D6/92	1/0
84	Stock, Mark	6-0/180	4-27-66	4	Virginia Military Institute	FA/92	3/0
83	Winans, Tydus	5-11/180	7-26-72	R	Fresno State	D3/94	—
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
67	Brown, Ray (G)	6-5/312	12-12-62	9	Arkansas State	PlanB/89	16/14
64	Elewonibi, Mo (T)	6-4/286	12-16-65	5	Brigham Young	D3/90	15/15
52	Elliott, Matt (C)	6-1/265	10-1-68	3	Michigan	D12/93	0/0
75	Gesek, John (C/G)	6-5/282	2-18-63	8	Sacramento State	FA/94	*14/0
60	Huntington, Greg (C)	6-3/287	9-22-70	2	Penn State	D5/93	9/0
77	Johnson, Tre (T)	6-2/315	8-30-71	R	Temple	D2/94	—
79	Lachey, Jim (T)	6-6/294	6-4-63	10	Ohio State	T-Rai/88	0/0
59	Matich, Trevor (C)	6-4/297	10-9-61	10	Brigham Young	FA/94	*16/4
63	McKenzie, Raleigh (G/C)	6-2/277	2-8-63	10	Tennessee	D11/85	16/16
62	Moore, Darryl (T/G)	6-2/292	1-27-69	3	Texas-El Paso	D8/92	12/0
68	Patton, Joe (G)	6-5/288	1-5-72	R	Alabama A&M	D3/94	—
69	Schlereth, Mark (G)	6-3/278	1-25-66	6	Idaho	D10/89	9/8
76	Simmons, Ed (T)	6-5/300	12-31-63	8	Eastern Washington	D6/87	13/13
61	Smith, Vernice (G)	6-3/298	10-24-65	6	Florida A&M	FA/93	14/8
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
99	Buck, Jason (E/T)	6-4/274	7-27-63	8	Brigham Young	FA/91	13/3
91	Collins, Shane (E)	6-3/267	4-11-69	3	Arizona State	D2/92	7/5
78	Johnson, Tim (T)	6-3/275	1-29-65	8	Penn State	T-PIT/90	15/15
92	Nottage, Dexter (E)	6-4/273	11-14-70	R	Florida A&M	D6/94	—
97	Palmer, Sterling (E)	6-5/256	2-4-71	2	Florida State	D4/93	14/10
94	Wilson, Bobby (T)	6-2/283	3-4-68	4	Michigan State	D1/91	12/9
98	Woods, Tony (E)	6-4/269	9-11-65	8	Pittsburgh	FA/94	*14/8
	LINEBACKERS						
51	Coleman, Monte	6-2/242	11-4-57	16	Central Arkansas	D11/79	14/4
55	Collins, Andre	6-1/231	5-4-68	5	Penn State	D2/90	13/13
54	Gouveia, Kurt	6-1/233	9-14-64	8	Brigham Young	D8/86	16/16
90	Graf, Rick	6-5/244	8-29-64	8	Wisconsin	FA/93	5/0
56	Hamilton, Rick	6-2/241	4-19-70	2	Central Florida	D3/93	16/0
56	Harvey, Ken	6-3/230	5-6-65	7	California	FA/94	*16/6
96	Hollinquest, Lamont	6-3/245	10-24-70	2	Southern California	D8/93	16/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
25	Carter, Tom (CB)	5-11/181	9-5-72	2	Notre Dame	D1/93	14/11
27	Edwards, Brad (S)	6-2/207	3-22-66	7	South Carolina	PlanB/90	16/16
24	Eilers, Pat (S)	5-11/197	9-3-66	4	Notre Dame	FA/93	11/0
28	Green, Darrell (CB/PR)	5-8/170	2-15-60	12	Texas A&I	D1/83	16/16
23	Hall, Chris (S)	6-2/184	4-25-70	1	East Carolina	FA/94	*1/0
47	Johnson, A.J. (CB)	5-8/175	6-22-67	6	Southwest Texas State	D6/89	13/3
20	Mays, Alvoid (CB)	5-9/172	7-10-66	5	West Virginia	FA/90	15/2
38	Morrison, Darryl (CB/S)	5-11/185	5-19-71	2	Arizona	D6/93	4/0
29	Taylor, Keith (S)	5-11/206	12-21-64	6	Illinois	FA/94	*16/14
41	Thomas, Johnny (CB)	5-9/191	8-3-64	6	Baylor	FA/92	16/0
	SPECIALISTS						
8	Lohmiller, Chip (K)	6-3/215	7-16-66	7	Minnesota	D2/88	16/0
1	Roby, Reggie (P)	6-2/243	7-30-61	12	Iowa	FA/93	15/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
William Bell, FB; Nate Dingle, LB; Tico Duckett, RB; Guy Earle, T; Gonzalo Floyd, LB; Chris Hall, S; Willie Hinchcliff, WR; Martin Hochertz, DE; Tyler Lawrence, LB; Lamar Mills, DE; Pat O'Hara, QB; Austin Olobia, WR; Dondre Owens, CB; Tyrone Rush, RB; Brian Satterfield, RB; Paul Siever, T; Jason Simmons, DE; Keith Williams, WR.
*Not with Redskins in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

arch) and Sterling Palmer (knee), are coming off injuries and free agent Tony Woods, signed from the Rams, was cut by Seattle just a year ago. Bobby Wilson, who had a knee injury last season and played only nine games, has to prove he can stay healthy at the other tackle.

The Redskins ran out of money and could not afford to sign the expensive free agents that might have helped the line. It's a priority for next season.

LINEBACKERS—Harvey, who left the Cardinals to sign a four-year, $11 million contract, is now the Redskins' highest-paid player and he's being counted on to make a major impact.

Harvey hasn't been an every-down player in the past, but the Redskins think he can be. He has to lead the defense this season and be the force that Wilber Marshall was two years ago.

Andre Collins, the other outside linebacker, missed the first three games with a knee injury last season and never reached full stride. The Redskins hope he will rebound.

Middle linebacker Kurt Gouveia plays only on running downs and, at 228 pounds, doesn't have the size to stuff the run. The Redskins looked at free agent Joe Kelly, but he signed with the Rams.

Monte Coleman is still effective in nickel situations even though he's 36.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—For Darrell Green, age is just a number. At 34, he's still one of the league's best cornerbacks.

Tom Carter, the other cornerback, won a starting job as a rookie and contributed six interceptions, which tied for second in the NFC. But he was inconsistent at times and must get better.

Free safety Brad Edwards had a frustrating season and hopes to rebound, while Keith Taylor, signed as a free agent from New Orleans, is being counted on to replace strong safety Danny Copeland, who retired.

The secondary can handle the job if the Redskins can put some heat on the quarterback. If opposing quarterbacks have too much time to throw, the secondary will be put in a lot of tough situations.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Chip Lohmiller slumped last season after the Redskins decided it was time for Jeff Rutledge, his holder, to depart. Rypien and Pat Eilers filled in, but each was injured and that prevented Lohmiller from getting into a rhythm. If he gets consistent holding, Lohmiller again will be one of the best. Reggie Roby is noted for his booming punts, although he sometimes out-kicks the coverage.

FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Brian Mitchell is one of the best return men in the league, returning 33 kickoffs for a 20.5 average, with highs of 68 and 41 yards. ◆

New offense gives Bears hope for division title

By FRED MITCHELL
Chicago Tribune

After signing practically a new offense, the 1994 Chicago Bears look as if they could become worldbeaters—or at least NFC Central Division beaters.

The Bears were one of the most active teams during the National Football League's free-agency period, adding seven players: quarterbacks Erik Kramer and Steve Walsh, offensive tackle Andy Heck, tailback Lewis Tillman, fullback Merril Hoge, wide receiver Jeff Graham and tight end Marv Cook.

The Bears said goodbye to quarterback Jim Harbaugh, running back Neal Anderson, fullback Craig Heyward and offensive tackle Keith Van Horne.

They also said farewell to defensive leaders Richard Dent and Steve McMichael, though there is a small possibility McMichael could return.

"I hope there is no doubt about the commitment of the Bears' organization to putting together a winning club," President Michael McCaskey said. "We are doing everything we possibly can, looking at all avenues of adding talented players to our squad."

In Coach Dave Wannstedt's first year as a head coach at any level, the Bears finished 7-9 and placed fourth in the NFC Central. They were 7-5 and in prime position to secure a playoff spot entering December. But a four-game losing streak at the end of the year kept the Bears out of the playoffs.

Late-season struggles are not new to the Bears. They have not won a road game in December since 1987, a fact not lost on their coach.

"Our Number 1 goal this season will be to win games in December," Wannstedt said.

Wannstedt saw a silver lining in the Bears' late swoon last season.

"It forced us to make some changes and not think that everything was OK," he said.

The defense generally excelled and the special teams had their moments last year. The wart on the side of the Bears' game face was an offense that staggered out of the gate in preseason, lost confidence at the start of the regular season and performed as if it didn't have a clue at the end. It ranked last in the league in 1993.

Wannstedt's task this fall will be to blend and coordinate the expensive talent with a minimal amount of consternation and dissension. He said he is up to the challenge.

"This is the part I feel most confident about," Wannstedt said. "This will be like college, with all the recruiting of new players every year and getting them to play well as a team.

"I am really excited about making this thing work."

Some club owners will not hesitate to remind their coaches that they opened up their wallets and signed most of the free agents on the team's wish list. McCaskey is not likely to apply such pressure on Wannstedt, because he also was an integral part of the process of identifying and acquiring the key players.

CHUCK RYDLEWSKI

Outside linebacker Ron Cox recorded two sacks and forced two fumbles last season.

COACHING

The honeymoon period is over for Wannstedt, who received passing marks in his first year despite the season-ending losing streak.

Wannstedt, 42, retained all the members from last year's coaching staff.

"I've surrounded myself with a great staff," Wannstedt said. "I know you have to surround yourself with players and people that you trust, and I feel very good about that."

Offensive coordinator Ron Turner will be under the gun this year because of his unit's poor performance last season. The Bears went shopping for Turner and obtained a new starting backfield and a wide receiver.

Although the offense will be remain in Turner's hands, expect Wannstedt to continue to handle most of the calls on defense, where he established his reputation with the Dallas Cowboys.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—With Kramer, the Bears have nowhere to go but up.

"This was the perfect situation, I couldn't have drawn it up any better," Kramer said. He also will have more to work with than Harbaugh did last year.

Wannstedt likes the fact that Kramer displayed an accurate arm with the Detroit Lions both inside and outside the Silverdome. Last season, Kramer threw eight touchdown passes in five games, with only three interceptions. Kramer also is the last quarterback to defeat the Cowboys in the playoffs (1992).

"I like everything about him," Wannstedt said. "He is a winner. From all reports from coaches and players who have been around him, he is a team guy."

Steve Walsh, who failed to live up to promise in New Orleans, will be Kramer's backup. He'll replace Peter Tom Willis, who compiled a passer rating of 27.6 in limited time last season.

Shane Matthews will be the third-string quarterback. He has worked on his biggest weakness, arm strength, and Wannstedt said that Matthews is throwing the ball better than last year.

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: A big-play defense. It kept the Bears in virtually every game last season and will be counted on again in '94. Cornerback Donnell Woolford and free safety Mark Carrier are in their prime and coming off Pro Bowl seasons. Top special-teams performers Kevin Butler, Chris Gardocki and Maurice Douglass could play an even greater role with the new NFL rules regarding the kicking game.

Weaknesses: The Bears' offense remains guilty until proven successful, having ranked last in the NFL last season. A brand new backfield and restructured line have many strides to make. With several team leaders gone, others must step up and assume key roles. Although the Bears are strong in the areas of kicking and kick coverage, the team will need to improve on kickoff and punt returns. Any extra field position for the offense will help.

Keys to success: The passing game, in particular, must be upgraded. Erik Kramer has the arm to throw downfield and is known for making good decisions. Since scrambling isn't his strong suit, he will need much more protection than Jim Harbaugh received last season. The Bears ranked last in the league in that category in '93. Wide receiver Curtis Conway must begin to show why he was the seventh overall pick of the 1993 draft. Defensively, second- and third-year linemen Alonzo Spellman and Carl Simpson must prove they can be major contributors.

That's a fact: Only one of the Bears' wide receivers (Terry Obee) scored more touchdowns (three) than reserve linebacker Myron Baker (two).

Coach Dave Wannstedt says: "I guarantee that we will find a way to win in December."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Conway	Graham	Hill
LT	Auzenne	Heck	Spears
LG	Bortz	Leeuwenburg	Kmet
C	J. Fontenot	Leeuwenburg	McGuire
RG	Perry	Leeuwenburg	Burger
RT	Heck	Williams	Spears
TE	Cook	Gedney	Jennings
WR	Waddle	Obee	
QB	Kramer	Walsh	Matthews
RB	Tillman	Worley	Green
FB	Hoge	Christian	Harris

DEFENSE

LE	Armstrong	Spellman	A. Fontenot
LT	Zorich	Ryan	Flanigan
RT	Simpson	Flanigan	Zorich
RE	Spellman	Thierry	A. Fontenot
ROLB	Smith	Cain	Snow
MLB	Jones	Baker	
LOLB	Cox	Cain	Minter
LCB	Woolford	Johnson	Miniefield
RCB	Lincoln	Blaylock	Johnson
SS	Gayle	Mangum	Douglass
FS	Carrier	Mangum	Collier

SPECIALISTS

K	Butler		
P	Gardocki		
KR	Conway	Obee	
PR	Conway	Obee	Woolford

CHICAGO BEARS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Dave Wannstedt.
Assistant coaches: • Danny Abramowicz (special teams) • Clarence Brooks (defensive line) • Ivan Fears (wide receivers) • Carlos Mainord (defensive assistant) • Dave McGinnis (linebackers) • Joe Pendry (running backs) • Mike Shula (tight ends) • Bob Slowik (defensive coordinator/defensive backs) • Ron Turner (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks) • Tony Wise (offensive line).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 7-9 (4th in NFC Central); 3-5 in division; 5-7 in conference; 3-5 at home; 4-4 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Wannstedt's regular-season record: 7-9 in one season with Bears.
Team record last five years: 40-40 (.500, ranks T15th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	14	28
Rushing offense	10	19
Passing offense	14	28
Scoring offense	12	24
Total defense	3	4
Rushing defense	8	17
Passing defense	2	3
Scoring defense	3	3
Takeaways	T6	T14
Giveaways	T4	T11
Turnover differential	T6	T14
Sacks	T2	T4
Sacks allowed	14	T24

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	John Thierry	DE	Alcorn State
2nd	Marcus Spears	T	Northwestern (La.) State
3rd	Jim Flanigan	DT	Notre Dame
4th	Raymont Harris	FB	Ohio State
6th	Lloyd Hill	WR	Texas Tech
7th	Dennis Collier	S/CB	Colorado

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Sept.	12	at Phila. (Mon.)	9:00
Sept.	18	MINNESOTA	12:00
Sept.	25	at N.Y. Jets	8:00
Oct.	2	BUFFALO	3:00
Oct.	9	NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Oct.	16	Open date	
Oct.	23	at Detroit	1:00
Oct.	31	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	8:00
Nov.	6	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Nov.	13	at Miami	1:00
Nov.	20	DETROIT	12:00
Nov.	27	at Arizona	2:00
Dec.	1	at Minnesota (Thur.)	8:00
Dec.	11	at Green Bay	12:00
Dec.	18	L.A. RAMS	12:00
Dec.	24	NEW ENGLAND (Sat.)	12:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	N.Y. GIANTS	L	20-26
Sept.	12	at Minnesota	L	7-10
Sept.	19	Open date		
Sept.	26	TAMPA BAY	W	47-17
Oct.	3	ATLANTA	W	6-0
Oct.	10	at Philadelphia	W	17-6
Oct.	17	Open date		
Oct.	25	MINNESOTA	L	12-19
Oct.	31	at Green Bay	L	3-17
Nov.	7	L.A. RAIDERS	L	14-16
Nov.	14	at San Diego	W	16-13
Nov.	21	at Kansas City	W	19-17
Nov.	25	at Detroit	W	10-6
Dec.	5	GREEN BAY	W	30-17
Dec.	12	at Tampa Bay	L	10-13
Dec.	18	DENVER	L	3-13
Dec.	26	DETROIT	L	14-20
Jan.	2	at L.A. Rams	L	6-20

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Soldier Field (66,950, grass) • Ticket information: 708-615-2327 • Flagship radio station: WGN, 720 AM • Training site: University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, Wis.; 608-342-1201.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that on November 13 the Bears will play the Dolphins in Miami, one of two current NFL venues in which Chicago has never won a regular-season game? New England is the other.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Myron Baker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Mark Carrier	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Curtis Conway	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Marv Cook	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Jeff Graham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merril Hoge	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dante Jones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erik Kramer	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Jeremy Lincoln	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Terry Obee	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Lewis Tillman	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tom Waddle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Steve Walsh	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ryan Wetnight	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tim Worley	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

RUNNING BACKS—With the exception of Kramer, none of the newcomers has a guaranteed starting job. The most competitive position on the team could be tailback, with free-agent acquisition Lewis Tillman battling Tim Worley. After taking over for the veteran Anderson midway through last season, Worley gained 437 yards on 110 carries (4.0-yard average) and scored two touchdowns.

If Worley wins the starting job, Tillman will be more than a capable backup. He demonstrated that last season with the New York Giants, gaining 467 yards on 94 attempts (5.0-yard average) in six starts while replacing the injured Rodney Hampton. Tillman also has not missed a game in his five-year career.

With Hoge on hand, Worley and Tillman will have a true blocking fullback, a luxury the Bears have not had the last few seasons. The club signed Hoge, who played with Worley in Pittsburgh, to replace an inconsistent and overweight Heyward.

Backup fullback Bob Christian was a pleasant surprise last year (16 catches for 160 yards) and should continue to contribute as a third-down receiver out of the backfield. Robert Green could be another third-down threat.

Fourth-round pick Raymont Harris will spell Hoge and Christian.

RECEIVERS—The career-threatening knee injuries to Wendell Davis last October reduced a barely adequate receiving corps to below average.

It is not known if Davis will return. So the Bears moved to upgrade the position by acquiring Graham from the Steelers for a conditional pick in next year's draft. Graham, who caught 38 passes for 579 yards last season, will challenge Tom Waddle for a spot in the starting lineup opposite Curtis Conway. Waddle, hampered by a hamstring injury much of the season, led the team with 44 catches for 552 yards but reached the end zone only once and averaged only 12.5 yards a catch.

One of the keys to a more effective passing attack will be the play of Conway, who struggled in his rookie season and caught only 19 passes. He needs to get open more often

CHUCK RYDLEWSKI

Defensive end Alonzo Spellman showed signs of improvement in limited action last season.

CATHY ACHERMAN

The excellent coverage skills of cornerback Donnell Woolford helped Chicago's defense rank third in the NFL against the pass.

and take advantage of his great speed.

Terry Obee will serve as a backup at both of the receiver spots.

Tight end Chris Gedney would have been a starter last year as a rookie if he hadn't incurred shoulder and foot injuries. He finished with 10 catches for 98 yards. Gedney will compete for the starting job with free-agent signee Marv Cook, a former Pro Bowler with the New England Patriots. Keith Jennings, thrust into the starting role the last two seasons because of injuries to other players, has the blocking ability to keep a spot on the roster if he can remain healthy.

LINEMEN—The Bears improved themselves with the addition of Heck, one of the club's first free-agent choices. The former Seattle standout can play either of the tackle or guard positions and will provide stability and flexibility for a line that was in disarray much of last season. Look for Heck to start at right tackle, replacing Van Horne, who is expected to retire after a stellar 13-year career.

Jerry Fontenot should continue his solid play at center, and Mark Bortz is steady at left guard. Second-year guard Todd Perry could win a starting job this year.

Left tackle Troy Auzenne missed more than a month of last season with a knee injury, but he bulked up to almost 300 pounds during the off-season and appears determined to retain his starting job. Jay Leeuwenburg may have been one of the Bears' most valuable players last year, stepping in to play left tackle at the start of the season and winding up at right tackle. But he probably will be the backup at tackle and guard. Veteran John Wojciechowski filled in well at both guard and tackle last year but was released last spring because of salary-cap considerations. James Williams could make the roster as a reserve.

It may take a year before second-round pick Marcus Spears makes a major contribution at tackle.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Despite tailing off late in the season, the defensive line was the major reason why the defense ranked fourth in the league. But only half of the unit could be back this season. The Bears announced in late April they would not pursue Dent, an unrestricted free agent. And McMichael was released earlier in the spring because of salary-cap restrictions. The team said it would consider bringing him back for less money than the $1.2 million he was scheduled to be paid. The two players combined for 18½ sacks last season.

Alonzo Spellman will replace Dent at right end. He showed signs of improvement (28 tackles, 2½ sacks) in limited action last year. Speedy first-round pick John Thierry, who

Continued

BEWARE OF THE BEARS

That's Right. The foundation has been set for the Bears to return to the glory days when they were feared throughout the league. Coach Wannstedt and his staff are intent on getting this team back to where it belongs . . . on top of the NFC Central Division and annually contending for the Super Bowl title.

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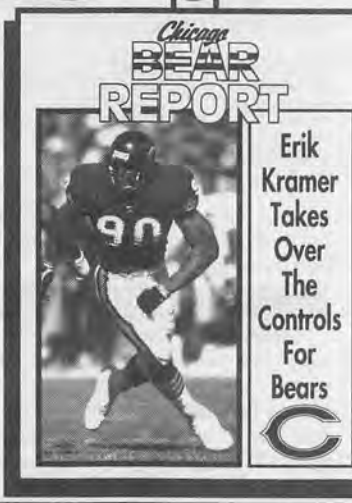

has been clocked at 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash, played linebacker at Alcorn State. But he will be shifted to right end to back up Spellman.

With Dent gone, a greater burden of pressuring the quarterback will fall on left end Trace Armstrong, who wound up with a career-best 11½ sacks in '93. Tackle Chris Zorich returns and will look to build upon a solid year in which he emerged in Wannstedt's swarming defensive system and finished third on the team with 121 tackles.

Third-round pick Jim Flanigan is being touted as a young McMichael. Veteran Tim Ryan will try to stay healthy after being slowed by a shoulder injury most of last season. End Albert Fontenot and tackle Carl Simpson saw little playing time last year as rookies but could develop into major contributors this season.

LINEBACKERS—Once again, middle linebacker will be a strength for the Bears. Dante Jones stepped into the shoes of Mike Singletary last year without a hitch, leading the team with a club-record 189 tackles and tying for the team lead with four interceptions. Jones also recorded a sack, recovered two fumbles and forced another. Vinson Smith and Ron Cox should flank Jones as the outside starters. Cox had two sacks last season and forced two fumbles. Smith and reserve Joe Cain are steady but not spectacular.

Percy Snow, Jim Schwantz, Barry Minter and Myron Baker probably will see plenty of action in Wannstedt's system, which incorporates lots of substitutions, and help out on special teams.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The secondary could be the Bears' biggest defensive strength this year. The defense finished third in the NFL against the pass, thanks to the steady rush of the defensive line and excellent coverage skills of cornerback Donnell Woolford (two interceptions) and free safety Mark Carrier (four), both of whom return after being named to the Pro Bowl.

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

Mark Carrier earned Pro Bowl honors in '93.

Also returning is strong safety Shaun Gayle, who had a career season in '93. Gayle ranked second on the team with 124 tackles, with two forced fumbles and a sack. The Bears need cornerback Anthony Blaylock to improve his coverage from last season. He didn't play up to his $1 million salary, and a broken finger added to his tentativeness. Jeremy Lincoln stepped in for Blaylock at midseason and delivered three interceptions. Look for Lincoln to challenge Blaylock at cornerback.

Maurice Douglass should again quietly excel in nickel coverage. He could see competition from cornerback Keshon Johnson.

Rookie Dennis Collier will help out as a backup at both cornerback and free safety. Reserve safety John Mangum will try to rebound from a hamstring injury that bothered him the entire '93 season.

1994 CHICAGO BEARS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
12	Kramer, Erik	6-1/200	11-6-64	5	North Carolina State	FA/94	*5/4
4	Walsh, Steve	6-3/200	12-1-66	6	Miami (Fla.)	FA/94	*2/1
	RUNNING BACKS						
44	Christian, Bob (FB)	5-10/225	11-14-68	2	Northwestern	FA/92	14/1
22	Green, Robert	5-8/212	9-10-70	3	William & Mary	W-Was/93	16/0
29	Harris, Raymont (FB)	6-0/225	12-23-70	R	Ohio State	D4/94	—
33	Hoge, Merril (FB)	6-2/230	1-26-65	8	Idaho State	FA/94	*16/13
27	Tillman, Lewis	6-0/204	4-16-66	6	Jackson State	FA/94	*16/7
38	Worley, Tim	6-2/228	9-24-66	5	Georgia	T-Pit/93	15/3
	RECEIVERS						
16	Bellamy, Mike	6-0/195	6-28-66	2	Illinois	FA/94	0/0
80	Conway, Curtis (KR/PR)	6-0/193	1-13-71	2	Southern California	D1/93	16/7
	Cook, Marv (TE)	6-4/234	2-24-66	6	Iowa	FA/94	16/12
82	Davis, Wendell	6-0/188	1-3-66	7	Louisiana State	D1/88	5/4
84	Gedney, Chris (TE)	6-5/265	8-9-70	2	Syracuse	D3/93	7/4
81	Graham, Jeff	6-2/196	2-14-69	4	Ohio State	T-Pit/94	*15/12
86	Hill, Lloyd	6-1/189	1-16-72	R	Texas Tech	D6/94	—
85	Jennings, Keith (TE)	6-4/270	5-19-66	5	Clemson	FA/91	13/10
83	Obee, Terry (KR/PR)	5-10/189	6-15-68	2	Oregon	FA/93	16/5
87	Waddle, Tom	6-0/190	2-20-67	5	Boston College	FA/89	15/15
89	Wetnight, Ryan (TE)	6-2/235	11-5-70	2	Stanford	FA/93	10/1
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
70	Auzenne, Troy (T)	6-7/300	6-26-69	3	California	D2/92	11/11
62	Bortz, Mark (G)	6-6/290	2-12-61	12	Iowa	D8/83	16/16
67	Fontenot, Jerry (C/G)	6-3/285	11-21-66	6	Texas A&M	D3/89	16/16
64	Heck, Andy (T)	6-6/296	1-1-67	6	Notre Dame	FA/94	*16/16
58	Leeuwenburg, Jay (G/C)	6-3/290	6-18-69	3	Colorado	W-KC/92	16/16
60	McGuire, Gene (C)	6-2/300	7-17-70	3	Notre Dame	W-NO/93	9/0
69	Myslinski, Tom (G)	6-2/289	12-7-68	3	Tennessee	FA/93	2/0
75	Perry, Todd (G)	6-5/310	11-28-70	2	Kentucky	D4/93	13/3
79	Spears, Marcus (T)	6-4/300	9-28-71	R	Northwestern (La.) State	D2/94	—
71	Williams, James (T)	6-7/335	3-29-68	4	Cheyney (Pa.)	FA/91	3/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
93	Armstrong, Trace (E)	6-4/270	10-5-65	6	Florida	D1/89	16/16
65	Epps, Tory (T)	6-1/280	5-28-67	5	Memphis State	FA/93	5/0
68	Flanigan, Jim (T)	6-2/280	8-27-71	R	Notre Dame	D3/94	—
96	Fontenot, Albert (E)	6-4/272	9-17-70	2	Baylor	D4/93	16/0
99	Ryan, Tim (T)	6-4/275	9-8-67	5	Southern California	D3/90	11/0
98	Simpson, Carl (T)	6-2/285	4-18-70	2	Florida State	D2/93	11/0
90	Spellman, Alonzo (E)	6-4/285	9-27-71	3	Ohio State	D1/92	16/0
94	Thierry, John (E)	6-4/260	9-4-71	R	Alcorn State	D1/94	—
97	Zorich, Chris (T)	6-1/277	3-13-69	4	Notre Dame	D2/91	16/16
	LINEBACKERS						
91	Baker, Myron	6-1/228	1-6-71	2	Louisiana Tech	D4/93	16/0
59	Cain, Joe	6-1/237	6-11-65	6	Oregon Tech	FA/93	15/15
54	Cox, Ron	6-2/235	2-27-68	5	Fresno State	D2/90	16/2
49	Givens, Reggie	6-0/220	10-3-71	1	Penn State	FA/94	0/0
53	Jones, Dante	6-2/235	3-23-65	7	Oklahoma	D2/88	16/16
92	Minter, Barry	6-2/239	1-28-70	2	Tulsa	T-Dal/93	2/0
52	Schwantz, Jim	6-2/232	1-23-70	1	Purdue	FA/92	0/0
55	Smith, Vinson	6-2/247	7-3-65	8	East Carolina	T-Dal/93	16/13
57	Snow, Percy	6-2/240	11-5-67	5	Michigan State	W-KC/93	10/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
47	Blaylock, Anthony (CB)	5-10/185	2-21-65	7	Winston-Salem (N.C.) St.	FA/93	9/9
20	Carrier, Mark (S)	6-1/190	4-28-68	5	Southern California	D1/90	16/16
32	Collier, Dennis (S/CB)	5-9/187	5-17-71	R	Colorado	D7/94	—
37	Douglass, Maurice (S)	5-11/203	2-12-64	8	Kentucky	D8/86	16/1
23	Gayle, Shaun (S)	5-11/202	3-8-62	11	Ohio State	D10/84	16/16
25	Johnson, Keshon (CB)	5-10/183	7-17-70	2	Arizona	D7/93	15/0
39	Lincoln, Jeremy (CB)	5-10/180	4-7-69	3	Tennessee	D3/92	16/7
26	Mangum, John (S)	5-10/192	3-16-67	5	Alabama	D7/90	12/1
24	Miniefield, Kevin (CB)	5-9/180	3-2-70	2	Arizona State	FA/93	8/0
21	Woolford, Donnell (CB/PR)	5-9/188	1-6-66	6	Clemson	D1/89	16/16
	SPECIALISTS						
	Alcorn, Daron (K)	6-2/235	5-12-71	1	Akron	FA/94	0/0
6	Butler, Kevin (K)	6-1/205	7-24-62	10	Georgia	D4/85	16/0
17	Gardocki, Chris (P/K)	6-1/196	2-7-70	4	Clemson	D3/91	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Robert Bass, LB; Anthony Brooks, WR; Donny Brooks, CB; Todd Burger, G; Arthur Bussie, DE; Antonio Carter, FB; Josh Dunning, G; Marcus Durgin, CB; Matt Frier, WR; Garland Hawkins, DE; Mike Hightower, HB; Darwin Ireland, LB; Frank Kmet, G; Anthony Marshall, S; John Martin, HB; Shane Matthews, QB; Todd Norman, T; Greg Primus, WR; Steven Sanders, WR; Oscar Shorten, DT; Matt Steeple, G; Aubrey Thompson, TE; Cedric Walker, S.
*Not with Bears in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kicker Kevin Butler, an unrestricted free agent, is expected to return and continue his mastery over the Soldier Field winds. Butler booted five field goals of 50 yards or more, made 27 of 36 field-goal attempts and converted 21 of 22 attempts on extra points. With Butler and punter Chris Gardocki, Chicago's kicking game needs no tinkering. Gardocki averaged only 38.5 yards on 80 punts, but he landed 28 inside the 20, tying him with the Steelers' Mark Royals for the league lead.

The Bears could be looking for competition for its kick returners in training camp. Conway averaged 21.4 yards on kickoff returns last season but didn't provide the glitter the Bears had hoped to see. A year's seasoning should help him in '94. Obee averaged a modest 8.3 yards on 35 punt returns. ◆

Up-and-down Lions looking for double-digit wins

By TOM KOWALSKI
Oakland Press

The won-lost column will certainly show a double-digit figure this season—it has been that way for six of the last seven years—but on which side? The Detroit Lions sandwiched a 5-11 record between 12- and 10-victory seasons over the last three years.

The roller-coaster Lions hope they've found some even footing. Despite the uncertainty of free agency, the Lions were successful in locking their best young players—including Barry Sanders, Herman Moore, Bennie Blades, Chris Spielman, Pat Swilling, Dave Richards and Kevin Glover—into multiyear contracts.

But that crew was around in 1993, when Detroit couldn't get past the first round of the playoffs. The missing ingredient? A lack of production from the quarterback position, according to Lions Coach Wayne Fontes, who hopes the problem was solved by the free-agent signing of former Dolphins quarterback Scott Mitchell. Fontes' job might depend on it.

COACHING

Fontes has two years left on his contract and was very disappointed when Owner William Clay Ford refused to give him an extension. Ford still strongly supports the coach, but he wants to see more bang for his buck in the next couple of seasons. Translation: Fontes can't afford any more first-round playoff losses.

Chuck Schmidt, the Lions' chief operating officer, did a brilliant job of circumventing the salary cap to lock up most of Detroit's good young players. Much of Ford's demands stem from Schmidt's ability to supply Fontes with everything he requested.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The Lions believe they've ended their quarterback search with the signing of Mitchell, whom Fontes called "the future." Of course, those same words were spoken in 1986 when Chuck Long was drafted in the first round and again in 1990 when Andre Ware was the seventh overall pick in the draft.

DUANE BURLESON

There is little debate that Barry Sanders is the NFL's most elusive and dangerous runner.

Mitchell, a fourth-round pick out of Utah in 1990, has started just seven National Football League games and is a mystery. He replaced an injured Dan Marino last season and looked good in his first four starts before suffering a shoulder injury. He returned from the injury and had three starts—all Miami losses—and wasn't nearly as effective.

Fontes loves Mitchell's character, throwing arm, intelligence and mobility. But the fact is that no one has a clue how he'll do over a 16-game season. If he struggles, don't expect Fontes to yank him. While Fontes believes Dave Krieg can play, Mitchell is the man. Krieg, who spent the last two seasons in Kansas City, was brought in for insurance purposes only.

Third-team quarterback Long is smart, but lacks mobility and doesn't have great arm strength.

RUNNING BACKS—Sanders was running away with the rushing title when he sprained a knee ligament and missed the last five games of the season. Sanders returned strong for the playoffs and gained 169 yards against the Packers.

There is little debate that Sanders is the league's most elusive and dangerous runner, but questions persist about his ability as a receiver. He has improved (36 receptions before getting hurt last season), but the team wants to see him catch more passes downfield in one-on-one coverage against a linebacker.

Sanders' injury allowed two players to step into the limelight and play well. Derrick Moore, who played only in short-yardage and goal-line situations, carried the load for three games and did an outstanding job. When Moore suffered bruised ribs, Eric Lynch was brilliant. He gained 115 bruising yards in the last game of the season as the Lions beat the Packers to win the NFC Central title.

Fontes has indicated Moore and Lynch will continue to carry the ball in short-yardage situations because they're power runners who lower their shoulders and hit the hole quickly.

RECEIVERS—With such stars as Jerry Rice, Sterling Sharpe, Michael Irvin and Andre Rison playing in the NFC, Herman Moore probably will become Detroit's all-time leading receiver someday—without going to a single Pro Bowl. Moore has tremendous ability—good speed, great leaping ability, a ballerina's grace and pillow-soft mitts.

The biggest problem for Moore is staying healthy. He missed only one game last season (sprained ankle), but he also had a nagging thigh injury that left him at less than 100 percent most of the time. Still, he led the team with 61 receptions and six touchdowns. Moore will be Mitchell's first option, especially in clutch situations, and look for the Lions to go to him more often inside the 20-yard line.

All that attention doesn't sit well with Brett Perriman and Willie Green, the team's

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The offense should be much more explosive. Barry Sanders is in his prime, the receiving corps is solid (with Herman Moore, Brett Perriman and Willie Green), and Scott Mitchell can't do any worse than the trio he's replacing (Rodney Peete, Erik Kramer and Andre Ware, who combined for 15 TD passes and 19 interceptions last season). The kicking game is the best in the league.

Weaknesses: The secondary is unsettled, and the defensive line lacks consistency. This unit is still vulnerable to big plays.

Keys to success: Mitchell must deliver. He doesn't have to carry the team—Sanders still will be the main focus—but he must complete passes in clutch situations. Also, one of the youngsters in the secondary must rise to the next level. Most important, the team must gain confidence in itself as it plows into its first-place schedule. The Lions have enough depth offensively to handle some injuries—even to Sanders—but the team will be crippled by injuries to defensive starters.

That's a fact: Detroit is coming off a 10-6 season, and the team appears to be stronger this year. However, the Lions haven't had back-to-back winning seasons since they did it four times back in 1969-72.

Coach Wayne Fontes says: "We've got a first-place schedule, and a lot of our games are on national television. We've complained in the past about not getting the respect we deserve, but now we've got the opportunity to get it—if we deserve it. We'll see very quickly how good we are. There's no sense talking about it; let's tee it up."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE			
WR	H. Moore	Matthews	Gray
LT	L. Brown	Tharpe	
LG	Richards	Compton	Semple
C	Glover	Compton	
RG	Bouwens	Compton	
RT	Lutz	Conover	
TE	Hall	Hallock	Thompson
WR	Morton	W. Green	Gray
WR	Perriman	Matthews	
QB	Mitchell	Krieg	Long
RB	Sanders	D. Moore	Lynch

DEFENSE			
LE	Pritchett	Owens	Bonham
NT	Spindler	Travis	
RE	Porcher	Owens	Bonham
ROLB	Swilling	Hayworth	London
ILB	Johnson	V. Jones	
ILB	Spielman	Kowalkowski	
LOLB	Jamison	Scroggins	London
RCB	Massey	Scott	Jeffries
LCB	McNeil	Scott	Bryant
SS	White	Malone	
FS	Blades	Colon	

SPECIALISTS			
K	Hanson	KR	Gray
P	Montgomery	PR	Gray

DETROIT LIONS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Wayne Fontes.
Assistant coaches: • Paul Boudreau (offensive line) • Don Clemons (outside linebackers) • John Fontes (defensive backs) • Bert Hill (strength coach/defensive assistant) • Steve Kazor (special teams) • Lamar Leachman (defensive line) • Dave Levy (assistant head coach) • Billie Matthews (running backs) • Tom Moore (quarterbacks) • Herb Paterra (defensive coordinator) • Charlie Sanders (receivers) • Howard Tippett (linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 10-6 (1st in NFC Central); 4-4 in division; 8-6 in conference; 5-3 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: Lost to Packers, 28-24, in NFC wild-card game.
Fontes' regular-season record: 42-43 in six seasons with Lions.
Fontes' postseason record: 1-2 in two playoffs with Lions.
Team record last five years: 40-40 (.500, ranks T15th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	11	24
Rushing offense	5	7
Passing offense	12	24
Scoring offense	7	16
Total defense	5	6
Rushing defense	4	10
Passing defense	6	9
Scoring defense	7	15
Takeaways	T1	T7
Giveaways	9	17
Turnover differential	4	T11
Sacks	6	10
Sacks allowed	13	23

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Johnnie Morton	WR	Southern Cal
2nd	Van Malone	SS	Texas
3rd	Shane Bonham	DE	Tennessee
4th	Vaughn Bryant	CB	Stanford
5th	Tony Semple	G	Memphis State
6th	Jocelyn Borgella	CB	Cincinnati
7th	Thomas Beer	LB	Wayne State (Mich.)

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	ATLANTA	1:00
Sept.	11	at Minnesota	12:00
Sept.	19	at Dallas (Mon.)	8:00
Sept.	25	NEW ENGLAND	4:00
Oct.	2	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Oct.	9	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct.	16	Open date	
Oct.	23	CHICAGO	1:00
Oct.	30	at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Nov.	6	Green Bay at Milw.	12:00
Nov.	13	TAMPA BAY	8:00
Nov.	20	at Chicago	12:00
Nov.	24	BUFFALO (Thanks.)	12:30
Dec.	4	GREEN BAY	1:00
Dec.	10	at N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	12:30
Dec.	17	MINNESOTA (Sat.)	12:30
Dec.	25	at Miami	8:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	ATLANTA	W	30-13
Sept.	12	at New England (OT)	W	19-16
Sept.	19	at New Orleans	L	3-14
Sept.	26	PHOENIX	W	26-20
Oct.	3	at Tampa Bay	L	10-27
Oct.	10	Open date		
Oct.	17	SEATTLE	W	30-10
Oct.	24	at L.A. Rams	W	16-13
Oct.	31	at Minnesota	W	30-27
Nov.	7	TAMPA BAY	W	23-0
Nov.	14	Open date		
Nov.	21	at Green Bay (Milw.)	L	17-26
Nov.	25	CHICAGO	L	6-10
Dec.	5	MINNESOTA	L	0-13
Dec.	12	at Phoenix	W	21-14
Dec.	19	SAN FRANCISCO	L	17-55
Dec.	26	at Chicago	W	20-14
Jan.	2	GREEN BAY	W	30-20

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Pontiac Silverdome (80,365, artificial) • Ticket information: 810-335-4151 • Flagship radio station: WWJ, 950 AM • Training site: Pontiac Silverdome, Pontiac, Mich.; 810-335-4131.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Lions will play five of their final seven games on national television—none of which will be played Sunday afternoon?

R.L. MONTGOMERY

Herman Moore probably will become Detroit's all-time leading receiver someday.

other two starters. Both players get depressed when they're left out of the offense, and they were both miserable under former offensive coordinator Dan Henning. Dave Levy, who replaced Henning late last season, did a better job of getting all the receivers involved early.

Perriman is a locker-room clown, but he always shows up on Sunday and is one of the toughest players on the team. He plays hurt and has no problem going across the middle. His 49 catches were second on the team, but most of his routes were designated short sit-down patterns.

Green is facing a strong challenge from Johnnie Morton, the Lions' No. 1 draft choice from Southern California. Morton's draft status gives him a big advantage, and he'll probably have to play his way out of the starting spot during training camp.

The Lions may have solved their problem at tight end, a team weakness since going to the run-and-shoot. Detroit signed Tampa Bay's Ron Hall, a strong blocker who has averaged 32 catches over the last six seasons.

LINEMEN—This group was a huge disappointment in '93, but there's no reason to expect it won't be one of the league's best this season.

Left tackle Lomas Brown, a brilliant pass protector, needs a lot of practice to hone his skills. Last season, Brown missed training camp because of a contract holdout, suffered a severe ankle sprain in the first game, missed five games and did not get in sync until late in the season.

Part of the line's inconsistency last year resulted from two starters playing new positions. Dave Richards played left guard and Dave Lutz switched to right tackle. Both had played right guard before coming to Detroit.

Lutz is huge at 6-foot-6 and 305 pounds and, predictably, has trouble with outside speed rushers but excels at in-fighting. Richards struggled early in the season as he adapted to his new position, and he admits the transition took longer than he expected. His level of play rose considerably at the end of the season as he got comfortable.

Starting right guard Bill Fralic is gone, so his spot will go to either Shawn Bouwens or Mike Compton. The most consistent performer on the line was Glover, and though he doesn't get the same recognition as some

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Willie Clay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Mel Gray	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Willie Green	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ron Hall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ty Hallock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Jason Hanson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	7	3	28	—	—
Rodney Holman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
George Jamison	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dave Krieg	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Eric Lynch	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scott Mitchell	4	5	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Derrick Moore	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Herman Moore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	6
Brett Perriman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Barry Sanders	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

other centers, he has played as well as any center in the league.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—This group is young, talented and versatile—but far too inconsistent. The Lions have invested many high draft picks in this area and are still waiting for a star to emerge. Ends Kelvin Pritchett and Robert Porcher could be marquee men.

Both have shown flashes of brilliance, only to disappear for long stretches. Their pass-rushing skills are good and improving, but they're sometimes overwhelmed in stopping the run. Dan Owens is the backup at both end positions and is the most consistent player on the line, but he lacks the potential of the other two.

Nose tackle Marc Spindler has been a pleasant surprise. He plays only on the early downs—the Lions use a lot of four-man fronts in passing situations—and he has been a relentless run-stopper.

LINEBACKERS—Pass coverage, one of this group's biggest weaknesses, may have been improved through free agency. The Lions lost Dennis Gibson to San Diego but added free agent Mike Johnson from Cleveland. Johnson is just as physical as Gibson was, but he's faster and can drop into pass coverage.

The Lions have plenty of talent at outside linebacker, but not enough positions to play everybody. Swilling has one spot nailed down. George Jamison, Tracy Scroggins, Tracy Hayworth and Antonio London will battle for the other spot.

Despite being hampered by a severe ankle sprain last year, Swilling played well and was voted to the Pro Bowl. Still, he wasn't the dominant player he had been in past seasons with New Orleans.

Scroggins led the linebackers with eight sacks, but he'll be challenged by Hayworth, who returned from injuries last season and finished strong. London will have to search for playing time, but he's an up-and-comer with talent.

Inside linebacker Spielman continues to amaze, leading the Lions in tackles for a team-record sixth straight season. Spielman is most lethal in short-yardage situations because he spends so much time studying film that—based on tendency, formation and motion—he can usually determine where the ball is going prior to the snap.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The fact that linebacker Swilling led the team in interceptions with three illustrates the problems in the Lions' pass coverage. The players are decent, but big plays are a rarity.

Cornerbacks Ray Crockett and Melvin Jenkins were lost to free agency and a career-threatening neck injury, respectively. Robert Massey, formerly of the Cardinals, was picked up as a free agent to replace Crockett, and Ryan McNeil is the favorite to replace Jenkins.

Massey won't provide the solid run support that Crockett did, but he is faster and loves to gamble on interceptions. McNeil has a flair for the big play, but his run support is suspect.

At strong safety, William White provides toughness against the run and can deliver big hits, but he has trouble in man-to-man coverage.

1994 DETROIT LIONS ROSTER

No.	QUARTERBACKS	Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
17	Krieg, Dave	6-1/202	10-20-58	15	Milton (Wis.)	FA/94	*12/5
16	Long, Chuck	6-4/217	2-18-63	7	Iowa	FA/94	0/0
19	Mitchell, Scott	6-6/230	1-2-68	6	Utah	FA/94	*13/7
	RUNNING BACKS						
43	Anderson, Gary	6-1/190	4-18-61	9	Arkansas	FA/93	10/1
26	Lynch, Eric	5-10/224	5-16-70	2	Grand Valley State (Mich.)	FA/92	4/2
31	Moore, Derrick	6-1/227	10-13-67	3	Northeastern Oklahoma State	W-Atl/93	13/3
20	Sanders, Barry	5-8/203	7-16-68	6	Oklahoma State	D1/89	11/11
	RECEIVERS						
23	Gray, Mel (KR/PR)	5-9/171	3-16-61	9	Purdue	FA/89	11/0
86	Green, Willie	6-2/181	4-2-66	5	Mississippi	D8/90	16/6
89	Hall, Ron (TE)	6-4/245	3-15-64	8	Hawaii	FA/94	*16/16
49	Hallock, Ty (TE)	6-3/249	4-30-71	2	Michigan State	D7/93	16/4
82	Holman, Rodney (TE)	6-3/238	4-20-60	13	Tulane	FA/93	16/16
83	Matthews, Aubrey	5-7/165	9-15-62	9	Delta State (Miss.)	FA/90	14/2
84	Moore, Herman	6-3/210	10-20-69	4	Virginia	D1/91	15/15
87	Morton, Johnnie (KR)	5-9/190	10-7-71	R	Southern California	D1/94	—
80	Perriman, Brett (PR)	5-9/180	10-10-65	7	Miami (Fla.)	T-NO/91	15/15
1	Thompson, Marty (TE)	6-4/243	12-9-69	2	Fresno State	FA/93	6/2
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
66	Bouwens, Shawn (G)	6-4/290	5-25-68	4	Nebraska Wesleyan	FA/91	15/1
75	Brown, Lomas (T)	6-4/287	3-30-63	10	Florida	D1/85	11/11
77	Compton, Mike (G/C)	6-6/297	9-18-70	2	West Virginia	D3/93	8/0
76	Conover, Scott (T)	6-4/285	9-27-68	4	Purdue	D5/91	1/0
53	Glover, Kevin (C)	6-2/282	6-17-63	10	Maryland	D2/85	16/16
74	Jetton, Paul (C/G)	6-4/288	10-6-64	6	Texas	FA/94	0/0
55	London, Antonio (C/G)	6-2/234	4-14-71	2	Alabama	D3/93	14/0
73	Lutz, David (T)	6-6/305	12-30-59	12	Georgia Tech	FA/93	16/16
67	Richards, Dave (G)	6-5/310	4-11-66	7	UCLA	FA/93	15/15
63	Rodenhauser, Mark (C)	6-5/280	6-1-61	7	Illinois State	FA/93	16/0
62	Semple, Tony (G)	6-4/286	12-20-70	R	Memphis State	D5/94	—
71	Tharpe, Larry (T)	6-4/299	11-19-70	3	Tennessee State	D6/92	5/3
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
97	Bonham, Steven (E)	6-4/260	10-18-70	R	Tennessee	D3/94	—
90	Owens, Dan (E)	6-3/280	3-16-67	5	Southern California	D2/90	15/11
91	Porcher, Robert (E)	6-3/283	7-30-69	2	South Carolina State	D1/92	16/4
94	Pritchett, Kelvin (E)	6-2/281	10-24-69	4	Mississippi	T-Dal/91	16/5
93	Spindler, Marc (NT)	6-5/290	11-28-69	5	Pittsburgh	D3/90	16/16
92	Travis, Mack (NT)	6-1/280	7-3-70	R	California	FA/93	—
	LINEBACKERS						
98	Beer, Thomas	6-1/237	3-27-69	R	Wayne State (Mich.)	D7/94	—
50	Caston, Toby	6-1/243	7-17-65	8	Louisiana State	FA/83	9/0
99	Hayworth, Tracy	6-3/260	12-18-67	5	Tennessee	D7/90	11/2
58	Jamison, George	6-1/235	9-30-62	9	Cincinnati	SupD2/84	16/16
51	Johnson, Mike	6-1/230	11-26-62	8	Virginia Tech	FA/94	*16/16
57	Jones, Victor	6-2/250	10-19-66	7	Virginia Tech	FA/89	16/1
52	Kowalkowski, Scott	6-2/228	8-23-68	3	Notre Dame	FA/94	0/0
55	London, Antonio	6-2/234	4-14-71	2	Alabama	D3/93	4/0
59	Scroggins, Tracy	6-2/255	9-11-69	3	Tulsa	D2/92	16/0
54	Spielman, Chris	6-0/247	10-11-65	7	Ohio State	D2/88	16/16
56	Swilling, Pat	6-3/242	10-25-64	9	Georgia Tech	T-NO/93	14/14
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
36	Blades, Bennie (S)	6-1/221	9-3-66	7	Miami (Fla.)	D1/88	4/4
27	Borgella, Jocelyn (CB)	5-10/180	8-26-71	R	Cincinnati	D6/94	—
24	Bryant, Vaughn (CB)	5-9/187	3-20-72	R	Stanford	D4/94	—
32	Clay, Willie (CB)	5-9/184	9-5-70	2	Georgia Tech	D8/92	16/1
21	Colon, Harry (S)	6-0/203	2-14-69	4	Missouri	FA/92	15/11
25	Jeffries, Greg (CB)	5-9/184	10-16-71	2	Virginia	D6/93	7/0
39	Malone, Van (S)	5-11/186	7-1-70	R	Texas	D2/94	—
40	Massey, Robert (CB)	5-10/195	2-17-67	7	North Carolina Central	FA/94	*10/10
33	McKyer, Tim (CB)	6-1/174	9-5-63	8	Texas-Arlington	FA/93	15/4
47	McNeil, Ryan (CB)	6-0/187	10-4-70	2	Miami (Fla.)	D2/93	16/2
38	Scott, Kevin (CB)	5-9/175	5-19-69	4	Stanford	D4/91	12/10
35	White, William (S)	5-10/191	2-19-66	7	Ohio State	D4/88	16/16
	SPECIALISTS						
4	Hanson, Jason (K)	5-11/183	6-17-70	3	Washington State	D2/92	16/0
9	Montgomery, Greg (P)	6-4/215	10-29-64	7	Michigan State	FA/94	*15/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Raymond Batiste, G; Ernie Brown, DE; Leonard Burton, C; Josh Butland, P; Eric Green, WR/KR; Jason Jones, G; Scott Kaplan, K; Kyle Moore, DT; John Oglesby, RB; Ricky Powers, RB; Ray Roberts, TE; Larry Ryans, WR; James Wilson, DE; Richard Woodley, WR.
*Not with Lions in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

The loss of free safety Blades for the final 12 games last season hurt the secondary's production. Blades has cornerback speed, a linebacker body and a boxer's disposition. He goes for the knockout blow every time. But in six seasons, he has only eight interceptions.

If veteran Tim McKyer is not resigned, depth will be a problem. Kevin Scott and Greg Jeffries will be the backups.

SPECIAL TEAMS

The Lions lost special-teams coach Frank Gansz to Atlanta. While the loss was a big one, such players as Blades and Spindler have become special-teams dynamos because of Gansz and should carry on his philosophy.

Place-kicker Jason Hanson has a powerful leg for kickoffs, and he broke the team's single-season scoring record with 130 points last season. Punter Jim Arnold had his best season in Detroit, averaging 44.5 yards per kick, but he left for Miami. The Lions signed the league's best punter, Houston's Greg Montgomery.

Mel Gray again will be the Lions' primary kick returner. ◆

Decision time is here for Favre and the Packers

By TOM SILVERSTEIN
Milwaukee Sentinel

No longer are the Packers one of the baby brothers of the National Football League. They've grown up fast in two years since General Manager Ron Wolf hired Mike Holmgren as coach. Now, after consecutive 9-7 seasons and a second-round playoff appearance last year, they want to establish themselves among the league's elite.

"I think we are approaching what I wanted for this football team, and that's to be a consistent playoff-caliber football team," Holmgren said. "We want to get into the playoffs and then play our best football there—get a few bounces, get a little lucky with injuries—and then get to the big one."

The Packers think they have what it takes to compete with the Dallas Cowboys, San Francisco 49ers and anyone else who has a legitimate shot at a trip to Miami in January because they have one of the most dangerous pass-rushing combinations in football, the league's top receiver over the last two seasons, a budding young quarterback who is perhaps on the brink of greatness and a former 1,000-yard rusher who is determined to regain his form.

That should be enough to at least make the Packers a contender in the fast-improving NFC Central Division. If anything, they should do no worse than '93, when they lost four games in the final minutes.

Whether they can improve on that success depends on the arm and consciousness of quarterback Brett Favre.

A year ago, Favre electrified his fans with big plays and gutty efforts. But he also broke their hearts with crucial mistakes.

Holmgren can't dismiss Favre's league-leading 24 interceptions. He can only fantasize how good the Packers would have been had Favre practiced better ball management. Favre pulled out two victories with miracle throws, but he cost the team at least four games with ill-advised throws.

"This should be the year he hits it," Holmgren said.

The same is true for the rest of the Packers.

CATHY JOHNSON

The Packers once again expect big things from tight end Jackie Harris.

COACHING

Everyone knew Holmgren would acquit himself on offense when he came to the Packers, but he has proven to be adept at everything involved in being a head coach.

Holmgren overcame a potentially disruptive situation in the off-season when defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes decided to return to San Francisco for family reasons. That came just two weeks after defensive-line coach Greg Blache had bolted to Indianapolis for better pay and a longer contract.

Rather than lament the losses, Holmgren went hard after veteran defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur (who had just been fired by the Cardinals) and signed the veteran coach, preventing a potentially disastrous situation.

Shurmur won't be the locker-room buddy that Rhodes was to his defensive players, but he brings enough experience and savvy to maintain the high standard of defense that Rhodes set.

Joining Shurmur will be defensive-line coach Larry Brooks, a former All-Pro with the Rams. Brooks, who is young and inexperienced, will have to adapt quickly to coach in a high-pressure position.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—No matter what anyone says, Favre is Holmgren's quarterback of the future. Nevertheless, Holmgren says he will pull Favre much more quickly this season if he doesn't improve his decision-making.

Foremost in Holmgren's plans is to teach Favre when and how to throw the ball away.

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: A defensive line that includes Reggie White and Sean Jones and their 26 total sacks from 1993 should be as good as any in the league at rushing the passer. In wide receiver Sterling Sharpe and tight end Jackie Harris, the Packers have a receiving duo that can stretch the field. The addition of running back Reggie Cobb should diversify the offense. Kicker Chris Jacke ranks No. 4 all time in field-goal accuracy and he has done it in tough weather conditions.

Weaknesses: The Packers need a proven wide receiver to go with Sharpe. Robert Brooks may be their man, but there are no guarantees. Free safety could be a problem if George Teague can't regain his strength after losing 25 pounds while suffering a thyroid condition. The linebacker position may be weak without Johnny Holland's team-leading 134 tackles.

Keys to success: Quarterback Brett Favre must reduce his mental mistakes. If he does, there's no telling how far the Packers can go. Second, Cobb must deliver a 1,000-yard rushing season to keep defenses honest.

That's a fact: The Packers open the season at home against the Vikings. Since he came to Green Bay, Coach Mike Holmgren is 0-4 against former San Francisco coaching colleague Dennis Green.

Coach Mike Holmgren says: "I think we are approaching what I wanted us to be—a consistent playoff-caliber team, a team that gets in there and then plays its best football at the end. We should be better than 9-7 and should go to the playoffs. I think we're approaching that type of team."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Sharpe	Mickens	Lewis
LT	Ruettgers	Sims	Hutchins
LG	Widell	Dotson	
C	Winters	Zeno	
RG	Galbreath	Dotson	
RT	Sims	Dotson	Robbins
TE	J. Harris	Chmura	
WR	Brooks	Kearney	Morgan
QB	Favre	Brunell	Detmer
FB	Bennett	McNabb	Levens
RB	Cobb	Johnson	Wilson

DEFENSE

LE	White	Brock	Davey
LT	Jurkovic	Mersereau	G. Brown
RT	Brock	Wilkins	
RE	Jones	Davey	
LLB	Simmons	Coleman	
ILB	Koonce	Willis	Merriweather
RLB	Paup	Hamilton	Duckworth
LCB	Buckley	Walker	
RCB	D. Evans	C. Harris	
SS	Butler	D. Evans	
FS	Teague	Hauck	

SPECIALISTS

K	Jacke	KR	Brooks
P	Wagner	PR	Brooks
			C. Harris
			Buckley

At times, Favre resembles a sandlot quarterback the way he throws balls into the opposition's hands while being tackled or thrown out of bounds.

When he has time and doesn't get happy feet in the pocket, Favre is incredibly accurate. He will have to gain more confidence in his offensive line and stop bailing out so much to be successful.

Since becoming the starter in 1992, Favre has suffered a separated shoulder, sprained ankles, bruised ribs and an assortment of other minor injuries. But he hasn't missed a down.

If backups Mark Brunell and Ty Detmer are to get any time at quarterback, it will be because Holmgren is tired of riding the emotional roller coaster with Favre. Brunell figures to be the No. 1 backup—even though Detmer held the job last year and the two enter training camp even. Brunell has more talent and should be better in his second year in the NFL.

RUNNING BACKS—The Packers haven't had a running game to speak of in the last four seasons and they haven't had a 1,000-yard rusher since Terdell Middleton in 1978. Free agent Reggie Cobb could change that piece of trivia.

Even during his 1,000-yard season for Tampa Bay in 1992, Cobb averaged only 3.8 yards per carry. But the Packers don't mind as long as he can be a consistent threat to break off 10-yard runs and also catch the ball out of the backfield.

The Packers hope that a productive running game will open up the field for the passing game and reduce the attention paid to wide receiver Sterling Sharpe and tight end Jackie Harris.

Edgar Bennett is not the classic plow-horse fullback. He will always be a combination back who can catch the ball as well or better than he can run it.

Seeking some explosiveness at running back, the Packers selected Northern Illinois' LeShon Johnson, last year's leading rusher in Division I-A, in the third round of the draft. Johnson's quickness could be an effective change of pace for Cobb.

With Darrell Thompson released, Marcus Wilson and Dexter McNabb are the team's other runners.

RECEIVERS—The Packers were not able to upgrade this position with free agents or high draft picks, so they will count on third-year man Robert Brooks to take some pressure off Sharpe.

No one has caught more passes than Sharpe's 220 in the last two seasons—Sharpe, in fact, has set NFL single-season reception marks in each of those years. And Brooks is expected to be 100 percent by the time the regular season starts after he underwent off-season toe surgery.

Over the last two seasons, Sharpe has had 33 percent of the team's receptions, while the other receivers accounted for only 15 percent. Mark Clayton and the others simply couldn't get open.

Holmgren's plan is to spread the passes around. Considering his explosiveness on special teams, Brooks might be the key to the plan once he steps into the starting lineup. Brooks' best game was a playoff loss to Dallas in which he amassed 134 yards on three receptions and four returns. Included was a spectacular 13-yard TD reception in traffic and a 43-yard punt return.

"Robert Brooks has to have a great year," Holmgren said. "He is one of those people on offense that must play and show progress."

The rest of the receivers are average, although Terry Mickens, a fifth-round pick from Florida A&M, has the potential to succeed in this offense because of his ability to catch the ball over the middle. Veteran Anthony Morgan and rookies Jay Kearney and Bill Schroeder are speed receivers.

The Packers once again expect big things from tight end Harris, who averaged 14.4 yards per catch last season. Mark Chmura is the backup.

LINEMEN— Recognizing the need to strengthen their blocking, the Packers spent a first-round choice on Notre Dame lineman Aaron Taylor, who was immediately penciled in as starting left guard. However, Taylor ripped up his right knee in mini-camp, an injury which figured to sideline him for up to six months, probably the entire season.

The Packers had hoped Taylor's size and mobility would help them revive their running game since most of their other linemen are better pass protectors than run blockers. With Taylor out, six-year veteran Doug Widell, the starting right guard at the end of last season, should retain the job.

Joe Sims and Earl Dotson will battle for Tootie Robbins' old spot at right tackle. Sims, a good athlete with a lot of potential, has played the position and should beat out Dot-

Continued

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COACHES

Head coach: Mike Holmgren.
Assistant coaches: • Larry Brooks (defensive line) • Nolan Cromwell (special teams) • Jon Gruden (wide receivers) • Gil Haskell (offensive backs) • Dick Jauron (defensive secondary) • Kent Johnston (strength/ conditioning) • Sherman Lewis (offensive coordinator) • Jim Lind (defensive assistant/quality control) • Tom Lovat (offensive line) • Steve Mariucci (quarterbacks) • Andy Reid (tight ends/offensive assistant) • Fritz Shurmur (defensive coordinator) • Bob Valesente (linebackers).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 9-7 (T2nd in NFC Central); 4-4 in division; 6-6 in conference; 6-2 at home; 3-5 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Lions, 28-24, in NFC wild-card game; lost to Cowboys, 27-17, in NFC divisional playoff game.
Holmgren's regular-season record: 18-14 in two seasons with Packers.
Holmgren's postseason record: 1-1 in one playoff with Packers.
Team record last five years: 38-42 (.475, ranks 17th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	9	19
Rushing offense	12	22
Passing offense	7	18
Scoring offense	3	6
Total defense	2	2
Rushing defense	3	8
Passing defense	4	7
Scoring defense	5	9
Takeaways	4	11
Giveaways	T10	T18
Turnover differential	9	17
Sacks	T2	T4
Sacks allowed	2	T5

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Aaron Taylor	G	Notre Dame
3rd	LeShon Johnson	RB	Northern Illinois
4th	Gabe Wilkins	DT	Gardner-Webb (N.C.)
5th	Terry Mickens	WR	Florida A&M
5th	Dorsey Levens	FB	Georgia Tech
6th	Jay Kearney	WR	West Virginia
6th	Ruffin Hamilton	LB	Tulane
6th	Bill Schroeder	WR	Wisconsin-La Crosse
6th	Paul Duckworth	LB	Connecticut

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	MINNESOTA	12:00
Sept.	11	MIAMI at Milw.	12:00
Sept.	18	at Philadelphia	1:00
Sept.	25	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Oct.	2	at New England	1:00
Oct.	9	L.A. RAMS	12:00
Oct.	16	Open date	
Oct.	20	at Minnesota (Thur.)	7:00
Oct.	31	at Chicago (Mon.)	8:00
Nov.	6	DETROIT at Milw.	12:00
Nov.	13	N.Y. JETS	3:00
Nov.	20	at Buffalo	1:00
Nov.	24	at Dallas (Thanks.)	3:00
Dec.	4	at Detroit	1:00
Dec.	11	CHICAGO	12:00
Dec.	18	ATLANTA at Milw.	12:00
Dec.	24	at Tampa Bay (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	L.A. RAMS (Milw.)	W	36-6
Sept.	12	PHILADELPHIA	L	17-20
Sept.	19	Open date		
Sept.	26	at Minnesota	L	13-15
Oct.	3	at Dallas	L	14-36
Oct.	10	DENVER	W	30-27
Oct.	17	Open date		
Oct.	24	at Tampa Bay	W	37-14
Oct.	31	CHICAGO	W	17-3
Nov.	8	at Kansas City	L	16-23
Nov.	14	at New Orleans	W	19-17
Nov.	21	DETROIT (Milw.)	W	26-17
Nov.	28	TAMPA BAY	W	13-10
Dec.	5	at Chicago	L	17-30
Dec.	12	at San Diego	W	20-13
Dec.	19	MINNESOTA (Milw.)	L	17-21
Dec.	26	L.A. RAIDERS	W	28-0
Jan.	2	at Detroit	L	20-30

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Lambeau Field (59,543, grass); Milwaukee County Stadium (56,051, grass) • Ticket information: Green Bay: 414-496-5719; Milwaukee: 414-342-2717 • Flagship radio station: WTMJ, 620 AM • Training site: St. Norbert College, West DePere, Wis.; 414-496-5700.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Reggie White and Sean Jones have combined for 225½ sacks, more than any two teammates in NFL history?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Edgar Bennett	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Robert Brooks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
LeRoy Butler	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Reggie Cobb	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Brett Favre	6	11	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Jackie Harris	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Chris Jacke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	6	6	35	—	—
Sterling Sharpe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	11

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

CATHY JOHNSON

Strong safety LeRoy Butler is the leader in the secondary and likes that pressure.

son, who is a developing second-year player.

At center, Frank Winters has the job, replacing James Campen, who missed most of last season with a torn hamstring. But with Winters starting, the Packers lose some versatility since he can play three positions.

Left tackle Ken Ruettgers is coming off his best season. But the Packers' depth isn't the greatest and if Ruettgers is injured, they would be in trouble. Sims would probably have to move over from right tackle and Dotson would play on the right side.

Harry Galbreath mans the right-guard slot.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN_Who do you double-team? That's a question opposing offenses will ask when playing the Packers.

Last season, Pro Bowl end Reggie White was double-teamed more than at any time during his career. He was frustrated, despite finishing tied for the NFC lead in sacks (13) with New Orleans' Renaldo Turnbull. The Packers may have solved that problem by signing free-agent end Sean Jones from Houston to a three-year, $7.8 million contract. Jones also had 13 sacks.

No other tandem in the NFL had more sacks than White and Jones. The prospect of having both excites Shurmur, who likes to turn his linemen free. If teams choose to double- and triple-team White the way they did last season, Jones should have his way upfront.

To incorporate Jones into the lineup, Shurmur will switch the Packers' base defense from a 3-4 to a 4-3. While the Packers played some 4-3 last season with linebacker Tony Bennett as a fourth down lineman, there are some adjustments to be made.

Shurmur believes White did some of his best work when he was lined up over the guard and center. He will continue to move White and Jones around at the four line positions.

Nose tackle John Jurkovic will spend the majority of his time over the center. He benefited from White's presence and was particularly dangerous in one-on-one situations, finishing with 5½ sacks.

Matt Brock will likely play the other inte-

rior position. Brock played end last season, but the Packers believe he can make the transition easily. Free agent Scott Mersereau came over from the Jets and also could play at that position.

There isn't much depth behind those four, but rookie Gabe Wilkins, a fourth-round pick from Gardner-Webb (N.C.), and second-year man Gilbert Brown will have some pretty good role models to learn from.

LINEBACKERS—The one area Wolf and Holmgren didn't identify as a need when they began rebuilding the Packers two years ago was linebacker. Times have changed.

Since then, the Packers have lost starters John Anderson, Tony Bennett, Johnny Holland and Brian Noble.

Anderson retired after a long career before last season. Bennett signed as a free agent with Indianapolis in the off-season. Holland (neck) and Noble (knee) were forced to retire because of injuries in the off-season and Mark D'Onofrio's career appears over because of a hamstring tear.

If the Packers hadn't changed from the 3-4 defense, they really would have been hurting at linebacker. Instead, they should be all right with Bryce Paup and Wayne Simmons outside and George Koonce inside. Paup is a pass-rush specialist with 25 sacks over the last three seasons, including 11 last year, and Simmons is a cover man with pass-rush ability. Some of Paup's pass-rushing skills will be diminished by the 4-3 setup, but Shurmur plans on utilizing him as a rush man as often as possible.

Depth will be a definite problem, especially if any of the three starters is injured. The Packers signed veteran Mike Merriweather, who joined the team late in the season and played well in a limited role. One positive note is that promising inside backer James Willis has bounced back from knee reconstruction and should be available by the first game. Also, backup Keo Coleman will be ready for training camp after making good progress on an ankle injury.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The biggest question mark is at free safety, where second-year man George Teague is fighting to gain back the 25 pounds he lost as a result of a thyroid condition. Holmgren calls Teague "one of the keys to our defensive season."

If Teague isn't ready to play, Tim Hauck is a likely candidate to fill in. The only other spot in question is right cornerback, where the Packers would like to upgrade the position held by veteran Roland Mitchell.

Shurmur has indicated he would like to play some of his "big nickel" defense, which utilizes five defensive backs, two of whom are big, strong safety types. Aside from All-Pro LeRoy Butler, Doug Evans and Sammy Walker will be candidates for that scheme.

Evans, Walker and converted wide receiver Corey Harris also will push Mitchell at right cornerback. At left corner, the Packers expect big things from Terrell Buckley, who has been a disappointment after being the fifth overall pick in the 1992 draft.

One of the things Rhodes did successfully was set up Butler to make big plays. The confident strong safety is the leader in the secondary and likes that pressure. He led the team with six interceptions and 23 pass defenses. Whether Shurmur feels the same way remains to be seen.

1994 GREEN BAY PACKERS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
8	Brunell, Mark	6-1/208	9-17-70	2	Washington	D5/93	0/0
11	Detmer, Ty	6-0/190	10-30-67	3	Brigham Young	D9/92	3/0
4	Favre, Brett	6-2/218	10-10-69	4	Southern Mississippi	T-Atl/92	16/16
	RUNNING BACKS						
34	Bennett, Edgar (FB)	6-0/216	2-15-69	3	Florida State	D4/92	16/14
32	Cobb, Reggie	6-0/215	7-7-68	5	Tennessee	FA/94	*12/10
38	Dingle, Mike (FB)	6-2/240	1-30-69	3	South Carolina	FA/94	0/0
42	Johnson, LeShon	5-11/204	1-15-71	R	Northern Illinois	D3/94	—
48	Levens, Dorsey (FB)	6-1/231	5-21-70	R	Georgia Tech	D5/94	—
44	McNabb, Dexter (FB)	6-1/245	7-9-69	3	Florida	D5/92	16/0
20	Williams, Kevin	6-1/215	2-17-70	2	UCLA	FA/93	3/0
29	Wilson, Marcus	6-1/210	4-16-68	3	Virginia	FA/92	16/0
	RECEIVERS						
87	Brooks, Robert (KR/PR)	6-0/174	6-23-70	3	South Carolina	D3/92	14/0
89	Chmura, Mark (TE)	6-5/242	2-22-69	3	Boston College	D6/92	14/0
80	Harris, Jackie (TE)	6-3/243	1-4-68	5	Northeast Louisiana	D4/90	12/12
83	Harris, Willie	6-1/194	11-8-70	1	Mississippi State	FA/94	0/0
18	Kearney, Jay	6-1/194	9-29-71	R	West Virginia	D6/94	—
85	Lewis, Ron	5-11/189	3-25-68	5	Florida State	W-SF/92	9/0
88	Mickens, Terry	6-0/203	2-21-71	R	Florida A&M	D5/94	—
81	Morgan, Anthony	6-1/195	11-15-67	4	Tennessee	W-Chi/93	3/0
19	Schroeder, Bill	6-1/195	1-9-71	R	Wisconsin-La Crosse	D6/94	—
84	Sharpe, Sterling	6-1/210	4-6-65	7	South Carolina	D1/88	16/16
86	West, Ed (TE)	6-1/245	8-2-61	11	Auburn	FA/84	16/7
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
63	Campen, James (C)	6-2/280	6-11-64	8	Tulane	PlanB/89	4/4
72	Dotson, Earl (G/T)	6-3/315	12-17-70	2	Texas A&I	D3/93	13/0
76	Galbreath, Harry (G)	6-1/275	1-1-65	7	Tennessee	FA/93	16/16
67	Hutchins, Paul (T)	6-4/335	2-11-70	2	Western Michigan	D6/93	1/0
73	Robbins, Tootie (T)	6-5/315	6-2-58	13	East Carolina	FA/93	12/11
75	Ruettgers, Ken (T)	6-6/290	8-20-62	10	Southern California	D1/85	16/16
68	Sims, Joe (T)	6-3/310	3-1-69	4	Nebraska	FA/92	13/5
79	Taylor, Aaron (G)	6-4/307	11-14-72	R	Notre Dame	D1/94	—
74	Widell, Doug (G)	6-4/280	9-23-66	6	Boston College	T-Den/93	16/9
52	Winters, Frank (C/G)	6-3/285	1-23-64	8	Western Illinois	PlanB/92	16/16
60	Zeno, Lance (C)	6-4/279	4-15-67	3	UCLA	W-TB/93	7/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
62	Brock, Matt (T/E)	6-5/280	1-14-66	6	Oregon	D3/89	16/13
71	Brown, Gilbert (T)	6-2/330	2-22-71	2	Kansas	W-Min/93	2/0
99	Davey, Don (E)	6-4/270	4-8-68	4	Wisconsin	D3/91	9/0
93	Evans, Mike (E)	6-3/270	6-2-67	2	Michigan	FA/94	0/0
96	Jones, Sean (E)	6-7/275	12-19-62	11	Northeastern	FA/94	*16/16
64	Jurkovic, John (T)	6-2/285	8-18-67	3	Eastern Illinois	FA/91	16/12
97	LaBounty, Matt (E)	6-3/254	1-3-69	2	Oregon	W-SF/93	*6/0
94	Mersereau, Scott (T)	6-3/275	4-8-65	8	Southern Connecticut State	FA/94	*13/13
92	White, Reggie (E)	6-5/290	12-19-61	10	Tennessee	FA/93	16/16
98	Wilkins, Gabe (T)	6-4/292	9-1-71	R	Gardner-Webb (N.C.)	D4/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
51	Barker, Tony	6-2/235	9-7-68	2	Rice	FA/94	0/0
54	Coleman, Keo	6-1/255	5-1-70	3	Mississippi State	FA/93	12/2
58	D'Onofrio, Mark	6-2/235	3-17-69	3	Penn State	D2/92	0/0
46	Duckworth, Paul	6-1/245	3-12-71	R	Connecticut	D6/94	—
49	Hamilton, Ruffin	6-1/230	3-2-71	R	Tulane	D6/94	—
53	Koonce, George	6-1/238	10-15-68	3	East Carolina	FA/92	15/15
57	Merriweather, Mike	6-2/228	11-26-60	12	Pacific	FA/93	*1/0
95	Paup, Bryce	6-5/247	2-29-68	5	Northern Iowa	D6/90	15/14
59	Simmons, Wayne	6-2/240	12-15-69	2	Clemson	D1/93	14/8
56	Willis, James	6-1/235	9-2-72	2	Auburn	D5a/93	13/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
27	Buckley, Terrell (CB/PR)	5-9/174	6-7-71	3	Florida State	D1/92	16/16
36	Butler, LeRoy (S)	6-0/193	7-19-68	5	Florida State	D2/90	16/16
33	Evans, Doug (CB/S)	6-0/188	5-13-70	2	Louisiana Tech	D6/93	16/0
30	Harris, Corey (CB/KR)	5-11/195	10-25-69	3	Vanderbilt	W-Hou/92	11/0
24	Hauck, Tim (S)	5-10/185	12-20-66	5	Montana	PlanB/91	13/0
47	Mitchell, Roland (CB)	5-11/195	3-15-64	7	Texas Tech	PlanB/91	16/16
45	Prior, Mike (S)	6-0/215	11-14-63	9	Illinois State	FA/93	16/4
31	Teague, George (S)	6-1/187	2-18-71	R	Alabama	D1a/93	—
23	Walker, Sammy (CB)	5-11/203	1-20-69	4	Texas Tech	FA/93	8/1
	SPECIALISTS						
17	Hentrich, Craig (P/K)	6-3/200	5-18-71	1	Notre Dame	FA/93	0/0
13	Jacke, Chris (K)	6-0/200	3-12-66	6	Texas-El Paso	D6/89	16/0
9	Wagner, Bryan (P)	6-2/200	3-28-62	7	Cal State Northridge	FA/92	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Randy Bierman, T; Victor Brown, S; Yusef Burgess, LB; Curtis Cotton, S; Johnny Cox, WR; Lionell Crawford, WR; Charlie Dean, TE; Matt Eller, DE; John Fisher, C; Daryl Frazier, WR; Reggie Holt, S; Charles Hope, G/T; Mirko Jurkovic, G; Lenny McGill, CB; Christopher Perez, T; Lamark Shackerford, NT; Malcolm Showell, DE; LeRoy Smith, LB; Kurt Warner, QB; Mark Williams, LB; Jeff Wilner, TE.
*Not with Packers in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Though he lost the job as punt returner to Brooks, Buckley wants another opportunity to prove himself. He has big-play potential, but he was indecisive last season. The two will battle for the job in training camp.

Brooks led the league in kickoff returns with a 26.6-yard average, but he didn't lead the team. Corey Harris averaged 30.1 yards, but just missed qualifying for the official rankings. Because of a knee injury to Harris, the two didn't see much time together. They probably will this season.

The kicking game remains solid with Chris Jacke, who ranks fourth all-time in field-goal accuracy, and punter Bryan Wagner, who posted career highs last season in average (42.9) and net average (36.3). ◆

Vikings looking for Moon to deliver in January

By JEFF LENIHAN
Free-lance writer

If Jimmy Johnson's departure from Dallas truly threw NFC supremacy up for grabs, then the Minnesota Vikings' gutsy winter moves gave the first indication that they are poised to ascend to the potentially vacant throne.

But as the Vikings prepared for training camp after a furious off-season of activity, the question remains: Will the moves help the Vikings do more than their customary one-game-and-out playoff dance, or will the team's championship-starved fans ultimately spend their January howling at the Moon?

The team that of late has had little trouble running the ball or stopping opponents from moving the ball seems to have finally found someone capable of throwing it. Warren Moon becomes the fourth man to hold the No. 1 quarterback job under Coach Dennis Green (following Rich Gannon, Sean Salisbury and Jim McMahon). Green and his staff are convinced Moon, 37, has the ability, savvy and erudition to carry the team to playoff victories.

"We think Warren is a quarterback who can not only take us to the playoffs but help us win once we get there," Green said.

Although the Vikings clearly upgraded their offense with trades, signings and what was generally acknowledged to be one of the league's best drafts, they were not able to make as many additions to defensive coordinator Tony Dungy's well-conceived unit. The Vikings' quick-but-undersized defense, which was run over in the playoffs the last two seasons by the power games of the Redskins and Giants, will be hard-pressed to repeat its No. 1 ranking.

COACHING

Green will attempt to reach the playoffs for the third time in as many seasons on the professional level. If he accomplishes that, he will do so with a staff that includes five new assistants. In addition, Brian Billick, who coached the tight ends in '93, enters his first full season as offensive coordinator. In one of the few moves that generated widespread criticism, Green fired offensive-line coach John Michels, who had formed a solid unit despite several key losses, and popular special-teams coach Tom Batta.

Mixing the enthusiasm he displayed at Stanford and Northwestern with the discipline and organization he learned as an assistant with the San Francisco 49ers, Green believes his strength—and that of his staff—is his ability to recruit and develop young talent. That skill figures to be at a premium during the new age of the National Football League, with the salary cap resulting in rapid roster turnover.

Green has more control over personnel matters than most of his coaching brethren, and off-season acquisitions such as Moon, offensive tackle Chris Hinton and tight end Adrian Cooper were all at or near the top of his wish list. Green will take the field with the team he basically hand-picked, which means he will have few alibis if he doesn't win. Then again, he is not one to look for excuses.

Green also has shown he will not cater to the whims of any of his players, as his willingness to jettison disgruntled Pro Bowler Chris Doleman attests. The Vikings traded Doleman to Atlanta in April for draft picks in 1994 and '95.

RICK KOLODZIEJ

Pro Bowler John Randle teams with Henry Thomas to give Minnesota a solid combination in the middle of the defensive line.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Not surprisingly, Green declared Moon his starting quarterback almost before the former Oiler had signed his Vikings contract. Moon expects to flourish now that he has been emancipated from the run-and-shoot offense, and the Vikings plan to give him the most protection he has had in his career. The question is whether Moon can remain healthy enough to reach a conference championship game for the first time.

If he can't, the Vikings believe they acquired a potentially effective understudy in Andre Ware, a close friend of Moon and the only other quarterback on the training-camp roster who has thrown a pass in the NFL. Ware is expected to hold off Gino Torretta, who still has the confidence of the Vikings, for the backup job.

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The offensive backfield. Warren Moon seems to have finally solved Dennis Green's longstanding riddle at quarterback, and the running-back position will be deep if Robert Smith and Terry Allen are able to recover from knee surgeries. Moon will have a clutch receiver in Pro Bowler Cris Carter, and Adrian Cooper could be the game's next great tight end. Second-round pick David Palmer should give the special teams a boost.

Weaknesses: The offensive line will spend another year in transition. Carter needs a pass-catching complement to lessen double-teaming and Moon's age (38 in November) could become a factor by season's end. Defensively, the Vikings are still vulnerable to a power running game, as shown by their first-round playoff losses the last two seasons. The kick-coverage unit must be transformed under new assistant Gary Zauner.

Keys to success: Moon and Allen must stay off the injured list, the offensive line needs to become a cohesive unit and the defensive line has to quickly adjust to life after Chris Doleman. The secondary needs 1994 first-round pick Dewayne Washington to step right in at cornerback. The Vikings need free safety Todd Scott and linebacker Carlos Jenkins to rebound from disappointing seasons.

That's a fact: In 1994, the Vikings will be the only team with two backup quarterbacks (Andre Ware, Gino Torretta) who own Heisman trophies.

Coach Dennis Green says: "People are talking about us being a Super Bowl contender and that doesn't bother me. Like I've told the players, 'You have to be able to talk about it before you can do it.' "

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	C. Carter	Truitt	Palmer
LT	Hinton	Lindsay	Steussie
LG	R. McDaniel	Gerak	
C	Schreiber	Christy	Gerak
RG	Lindsay	Gerak	
RT	Dafney	Steussie	
TE	Cooper	Tennell	A. Jordan
WR	Reed	Ismail	
QB	Moon	Ware	Torretta
RB	Allen	R. Smith	A. Lee
FB	Graham	Evans	Staten

DEFENSE

RE	R. Barker	J. Harris	F. Smith
DT	Randle	Culpepper	Wells
NT	Thomas	Tuaolo	Wells
LE	R. Harris	J. Harris	F. Smith
SLB	Jenkins	Garnett	Sheppard
MLB	Del Rio	Manusky	Bercich
WLB	Strickland	E. McDaniel	Sheppard
CB	C. Lee	A. Parker	Hammonds
CB	Washington	A. Parker	Hammonds
SS	Scott	McGriggs	
FS	Glenn	A. Jones	

SPECIALISTS

PK	Reveiz	R. Jones	KR	Ismail	R. Smith	A. Lee
P	Newsome	B. Barker	PR	Palmer	A. Parker	

RUNNING BACKS—Even without Barry Word and Roger Craig, who are free agents and will not be brought back, the Vikings may have the game's deepest stable of running backs. It's a good thing, too, because nearly all of them have had trouble staying healthy.

Terry Allen set a club record with 1,201 rushing yards in 1992. But he missed the entire 1993 season from injuries that required the reconstruction of both knees. Robert Smith, who broke into the starting lineup during the season and gained 399 yards on 82 carries (4.9 average), also underwent knee reconstruction. And Charles Evans is recovering from a broken wrist.

Although Allen and Evans should be ready by the season opener, Smith may not return until October. This makes the coaching staff particularly thankful for Scottie Graham, a hard-charging fireplug who came off the practice squad and rushed for 488 yards.

Amp Lee, who was used as a reserve in San Francisco, will supply depth. Robert Staten, who spent last year on the practice squad, is a strong, stocky blocking back who remains in the team's plans.

RECEIVERS—Cris Carter finally made a long overdue trip to the Pro Bowl after his best season (86 catches, 1071 yards, nine touchdowns), but he needs a counterpart to take some of the pressure away. This may be the one area the Vikings failed to address in the off-season, though Green and Billick remain confident that one of four young players—Jake Reed, Qadry Ismail, Olanda Truitt or David Palmer—will emerge as a worthy complement to Carter, the team's go-to receiver. Anthony Carter and tight end Steve Jordan, both free agents, are not expected to return. Ismail, last year's second-round pick, showed flashes of brilliance but is still raw. What was supposed to be a breakthrough season for Reed was ruined by a broken leg. Truitt, a talented but unpolished speedster, caught only four passes in '93 but has impressed the coaching staff.

If Jordan does not return, Adrian Cooper should be an ample replacement. Cooper, acquired from Pittsburgh in March for undisclosed draft picks, gives the Vikings what they consider one of the best all-purpose tight ends in the league. The team believes Cooper, now that he has escaped the shadow of Eric Green, will blossom into a star. Derek Tennell is a serviceable backup. Rookie Andrew Jordan is viewed as a blocker.

LINEMEN—This figures to be a unit in transition—again. But new offensive-line coach Keith Rowen has some solid blocks with which to construct his new wall. Rowen will benefit from the return of Randall McDaniel and the arrival of Hinton, giving the Vikings one of the best left sides in the game. The right side remains in limbo now that tackle Tim Irwin and guard Todd Kalis have left via free agency. Bernard Dafney is the heir apparent at right tackle, and second-year player Everett Lindsay could slide over to right guard from left tackle.

Todd Steussie, one of the team's two first-round picks, has vowed to challenge for a regular job on the right side. Adam Schreiber will start at center, with Jeff Christy his backup. The Vikings still have a high opinion of second-year guard John Gerak, who may ultimately push Schreiber at center.

1994 MINNESOTA VIKINGS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
14	Johnson, Brad	6-5/221	9-13-68	3	Florida State	D9/92	0/0
1	Moon, Warren	6-3/212	11-18-56	11	Washington	T-Hou/94	*15/14
13	Torretta, Gino	6-2/215	8-10-70	2	Miami (Fla.)	D7/93	1/0
11	Ware, Andre	6-2/205	7-31-68	5	Houston	D1/90	*5/2
	RUNNING BACKS						
21	Allen, Terry	5-10/197	2-21-68	5	Clemson	D9/90	0/0
29	Evans, Charles (FB)	6-1/226	4-16-67	2	Clark Atlanta (Ga.)	D11/92	3/0
31	Graham, Scottie (FB)	5-9/215	3-28-69	2	Ohio State	FA/93	7/3
	Lee, Amp (KR)	5-11/200	10-1-71	3	Florida State	FA/94	*15/3
26	Smith, Robert (KR)	6-0/195	3-4-72	2	Ohio State	D1/93	10/2
	Staten, Robert (FB)	5-11/235	1-23-69	1	Jackson State	FA/94	—
	RECEIVERS						
81	Carter, Anthony	5-11/168	9-17-60	10	Michigan	T-Mia/85	15/14
80	Carter, Cris	6-3/198	11-25-65	8	Ohio State	W-Phi/90	16/16
87	Cooper, Adrian (TE)	6-5/263	4-27-68	4	Oklahoma	T-Pit/94	*14/3
84	Guliford, Eric	5-8/165	10-25-69	2	Arizona State	FA/93	10/0
48	Harrison, Todd (TE)	6-4/260	3-20-69	1	North Carolina State	FA/93	0/0
82	Ismail, Qadry (KR)	6-0/192	11-8-70	2	Syracuse	D2/93	15/3
43	Jordan, Andrew (TE)	6-4/268	6-21-72	R	Western Carolina	D6/94	—
83	Jordan, Steve (TE)	6-3/240	1-10-61	13	Brown	D7/82	14/12
85	Novoselsky, Brent (TE)	6-2/237	1-8-66	7	Pennsylvania	FA/89	15/0
22	Palmer, David (PR)	5-8/167	11-19-72	R	Alabama	D2/94	—
86	Reed, Jake	6-3/220	9-28-67	4	Grambling State	D3/91	10/1
46	Tennell, Derek (TE)	6-2/251	2-12-64	7	UCLA	FA/93	16/6
89	Truitt, Olanda	6-0/186	1-4-71	2	Mississippi State	W-RAI/93	8/0
15	Walsh, Chris	6-1/185	12-12-68	2	Stanford	FA/94	*3/0
35	West, Ronnie	6-1/215	6-23-68	3	Pittsburg (Kan.) State	D9/92	0/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
72	Adams, Scott	6-5/293	9-28-66	3	Georgia	FA/91	15/9
62	Christy, Jeff (C)	6-3/277	2-3-69	2	Pittsburgh	FA/93	9/0
75	Dafney, Bernard (T)	6-5/331	11-1-68	3	Tennessee	FA/92	16/4
66	Gerak, John (G/C)	6-3/285	1-6-70	R	Penn State	D3/93	—
78	Hinton, Chris (T)	6-4/305	7-31-61	12	Northwestern	FA/94	*16/16
61	Lindsay, Everett (G/T)	6-4/290	9-18-70	R	Mississippi	D5/93	—
64	McDaniel, Randall (G)	6-3/275	12-19-64	7	Arizona State	D1/88	16/16
68	Morris, Mike (C)	6-5/284	2-22-61	8	Northeast Missouri State	FA/1	16/0
60	Schreiber, Adam (C/G)	6-4/288	2-20-62	11	Texas	PlanB/90	16/16
73	Steussie, Todd (T)	6-6/298	12-1-70	R	California	D1/94	—
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
92	Barker, Roy (E)	6-4/280	2-14-69	3	North Carolina	D4/92	16/16
77	Culpepper, Brad (T)	6-1/260	5-8-68	3	Florida	D10/92	15/0
99	Harris, James (E)	6-4/270	5-3-68	2	Temple	FA/93	6/0
90	Harris, Robert (E)	6-4/290	6-13-69	3	Southern (La.)	D2/92	16/0
93	Randle, John (T)	6-1/275	12-12-67	5	Texas A&I	FA/90	16/16
95	Smith, Fernando (E)	6-6/270	8-2-71	R	Jackson State	D2/94	—
97	Thomas, Henry (NT)	6-2/285	1-12-65	8	Louisiana State	D3/87	13/13
94	Thornton, John (T)	6-3/303	6-28-69	2	Cincinnati	FA/94	0/0
98	Tuaolo, Esera (NT)	6-2/275	7-11-68	2	Oregon State	FA/93	11/3
65	Wells, Mike (T)	6-3/287	1-6-71	R	Iowa	D4/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
50	Abrams, Bobby	6-3/230	4-12-67	5	Michigan	FA/93	*5/0
56	Bercich, Pete	6-1/240	12-23-71	R	Notre Dame	D7/94	—
55	Del Rio, Jack	6-4/243	4-4-63	10	Southern California	PlanB/92	16/16
54	Garnett, Dave	6-2/219	12-6-70	2	Stanford	FA/93	16/0
51	Jenkins, Carlos	6-3/217	7-12-68	4	Michigan State	D3/91	16/16
52	Jones, Donald	6-0/231	3-26-69	1	Washington	FA/94	—
91	Manusky, Greg	6-1/237	8-12-66	7	Colgate	Planb/91	16/0
58	McDaniel, Ed	5-11/230	2-23-69	3	Clemson	D5/92	7/1
59	Sheppard, Ashley	6-3/243	1-21-69	R	Clemson	D4/93	—
53	Strickland, Fred	6-2/245	8-15-66	7	Purdue	FA/93	16/15
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
25	Glenn, Vencie (S)	6-0/201	10-26-64	9	Indiana State	PlanB/92	16/16
23	Hammonds, Shelly (CB)	5-10/187	2-13-71	R	Penn State	D5/94	—
32	Jones, Andrew (S)	6-1/203	6-16-70	2	Georgia Tech	FA/93	1/0
39	Lee, Carl (CB)	5-11/186	4-6-61	12	Marshall	D7/83	16/16
37	McGriggs, Lamar (S)	6-3/210	5-9-68	4	Western Illinois	FA/93	9/4
27	Parker, Anthony (CB/PR)	5-10/179	2-11-66	5	Arizona State	PlanB/92	14/0
28	Pool, David (CB)	5-9/182	12-20-66	5	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	FA/94	*2/0
38	Scott, Todd (S)	5-10/207	1-23-68	4	Southwestern Louisiana	D6/91	13/12
20	Washington, Dewayne (CB)	5-11/192	12-12-72	R	North Carolina State	D1/94	—
	SPECIALISTS						
4	Barker, Bryan (P)	6-1/187	6-28-64	5	Santa Clara	FA/94	*16/0
18	Newsome, Harry (P)	6-0/193	1-25-63	10	Wake Forest	PlanB/90	16/0
7	Reveiz, Fuad (K)	5-11/223	2-24-63	10	Tennessee	FA/93	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Frank Boudreaux, DT; Malik Boyd, CB; Tracy Boyd, T; Phil Brown, FB; Edward Buck, S; Lance Gray, FB; Robert Griffith, DB; Richard Jones, P; J.J. Lasley, FB; Tony Lenseigne, TE; Troy Riemer, T; William Sims, LB.
*Not with Vikings in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—The bad news for Dungy and defensive-line coach John Teerlinck is that Doleman took his many talents to Atlanta. The good news is that the team was able to retain nose tackle Henry Thomas by designating him their franchise player.

Thomas and Pro Bowler John Randle give the team a solid combination in the middle.

Continued

MINNESOTA VIKINGS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Dennis Green.
Assistant coaches: • Brian Billick (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks) • Tony Dungy (defensive coordinator) • Chris Foerster (offensive line assistant) • Carl Hargrave (offensive assistant) • Monte Kiffin (inside linebackers) • Jerry Rhome (receivers) • Keith Rowen (offensive line) • Richard Solomon (secondary) • John Teerlinck (defensive line) • Steve Wetzel (strength and conditioning) • Tyrone Willingham (running backs) • Mike Wolf (strength and conditioning assistant) • Gary Zauner (special teams).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 9-7 (T2nd in NFC Central); 6-2 in division; 7-5 in conference; 4-4 at home; 5-3 on road.
1993 playoff record: Lost to Giants, 17-10, in NFC wild-card game.
Green's regular-season record: 20-12 in two seasons with Vikings.
Green's postseason record: 0-2 in two playoffs with Vikings.
Team record last five years: 44-36 (.550, ranks T13th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	7	17
Rushing offense	11	21
Passing offense	5	14
Scoring offense	10	20
Total defense	1	1
Rushing defense	1	6
Passing defense	3	6
Scoring defense	6	T12
Takeaways	3	T9
Giveaways	3	5
Turnover differential	2	T5
Sacks	4	T7
Sacks allowed	T5	T11

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Dewayne Washington	CB	North Carolina State
1st	Todd Steussie	T	California
2nd	David Palmer	WR	Alabama
2nd	Fernando Smith	DE	Jackson State
4th	Mike Wells	DT	Iowa
5th	Shelly Hammonds	CB	Penn State
6th	Andrew Jordan	TE	Western Carolina
7th	Pete Bercich	LB	Notre Dame

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Green Bay	12:00
Sept.	11	DETROIT	12:00
Sept.	18	at Chicago	12:00
Sept.	25	MIAMI	12:00
Oct.	2	at Arizona	1:00
Oct.	10	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	9:00
Oct.	16	Open date	
Oct.	20	GREEN BAY (Thur.)	7:00
Oct.	30	at Tampa Bay	4:00
Nov.	6	NEW ORLEANS	12:00
Nov.	13	at New England	1:00
Nov.	20	N.Y. JETS	3:00
Nov.	27	TAMPA BAY	12:00
Dec.	1	CHICAGO (Thur.)	8:00
Dec.	11	at Buffalo	1:00
Dec.	17	at Detroit (Sat.)	12:30
Dec.	26	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	8:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at L.A. Raiders	L	7-24
Sept.	12	CHICAGO	W	10-7
Sept.	19	Open date		
Sept.	26	GREEN BAY	W	15-13
Oct.	3	at San Francisco	L	19-38
Oct.	10	TAMPA BAY	W	15-0
Oct.	17	Open date		
Oct.	25	at Chicago	W	19-12
Oct.	31	DETROIT	L	27-30
Nov.	7	SAN DIEGO	L	17-30
Nov.	14	at Denver	W	26-23
Nov.	21	at Tampa Bay	L	10-23
Nov.	28	NEW ORLEANS	L	14-17
Dec.	5	at Detroit	W	13-0
Dec.	12	DALLAS	L	20-37
Dec.	19	at Green Bay (Milw.)	W	21-17
Dec.	26	KANSAS CITY	W	30-10
Dec.	31	at Washington	W	14-9

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Metrodome (63,000, artificial) • Ticket information: 612-333-8828 • Flagship radio station: KFAN, 1130 AM • Training site: Mankato State University, Mankato, Minn.; 612-828-6500.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that, in 1993, running back Scottie Graham did not have a carry for the Vikings before December, yet he gained 488 yards in that month alone?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Cris Carter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	9
Anthony Carter	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	5
Scottie Graham	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Qadry Ismail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Steve Jordan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lamar McGriggs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Warren Moon	12	7	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22
Fuad Reveiz	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	3	1	27	—	—
Robert Smith	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Andre Ware	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Brad Culpepper and Esera Tuaolo will provide inside depth. Without Doleman, the Vikings have little experience on the outside. Roy Barker, who developed into a solid player late in '93, and Robert Harris could start at end. Other candidates include converted linebacker James Harris and rookie Fernando Smith, the latter a Richard Dent type. They both have confidence and raw pass-rushing skills. Despite the talent along the line, this unit remains vulnerable to a strong, powerful running game.

LINEBACKERS—The Vikings' only additions to this unit are seventh-round pick Pete Bercich and first-year linebacker Donald Jones. However, the defense could benefit from the return of Ed McDaniel (from a shoulder injury) and Carlos Jenkins (from a season-long funk).

Fred Strickland emerged as a solid weakside linebacker last season after projected starter McDaniel went down. Look for Strickland to retain the starting job. Jenkins returns to man the strongside despite a disappointing 1993. The Vikings need Jenkins to show the big-play talent that he displayed in 1992. In the middle, Jack Del Rio provides leadership, experience and intelligence.

Dave Garnett and Ashley Sheppard, coming off their rookie seasons, will probably play bigger roles in 1994. Bobby Abrams could be valuable again on special teams and on the rare occassions when the Vikings play a 3-4 defense.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—It will be difficult for the secondary to deliver an encore performance of last season. Audray McMillian was released because of salary-cap considerations and Carl Lee turned 33 last April. One nickel back, Jayice Pearson, was released in the off-season and the other, Anthony Parker, has yet to prove he can avoid injuries. It is little wonder the Vikings spent their first pick in the draft on Dewayne Washington, a fleet and fundamentally sound cover man from North Carolina State. The Vikings will probably have to wait until the first week of September to find out if Washington is ready to be a starting NFL cornerback.

Free safety Vencie Glenn is coming off the best season of his career and probably deserved a trip to the Pro Bowl. Strong safety Todd Scott had a disappointing season and must rebound from a shoulder injury. He could be pressed by Lamar McGriggs, who was solid in the second half of last season.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Little maintenance is required with solid punter Harry Newsome and consistent kicker Fuad Reveiz. Newsome averaged nearly 43 yards per punt last season, and Reveiz will carry into 1994 a streak of 30 straight field goals from 40 yards or less. However, the kick-coverage and return teams are another story. Those units were atrocious in '93, which explains why the Vikings fired Batta and hired new special-teams coach Gary Zauner.

Ismail seems to have ability as a return man but lacks consistency and experience. Amp Lee was the 49ers' top kickoff returner the last two years. The versatile Palmer should prove a valuable addition, thanks to two rule changes—moving kickoffs back to the 30-yard line and the introduction of the two-point conversion. ◆

Guarantee is nice, but Bucs need a few victories

By NICK PUGLIESE
Tampa Tribune

As far as guarantees go, it wasn't that big.

It certainly cannot share space on the same shelf with Joe Namath's bold prediction of an upset victory by the New York Jets over the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, or even Jimmy Johnson's brash comments before last year's NFC championship game.

But Tampa Bay Coach Sam Wyche showed he has the same physical makeup as Johnson after his Buccaneers upset Chicago, 13-10, last December.

"We're not going to be in the playoffs this year," he said. "We will next year."

Whether the Buccaneers fulfill Wyche's prophecy probably will be determined by the maturation of several young players on offense and a rebuilt defense, one they started to retool a year ago with the free-agent signings of middle linebacker Hardy Nickerson and cornerback Martin Mayhew. While Nickerson earned a Pro Bowl berth and became the undisputed leader of the Bucs' defense in his first season with the team, Mayhew was hampered by several injuries that kept him from playing as well as he had in Washington.

In the last few months, the Bucs have added free safety Thomas Everett, outside linebacker Lonnie Marts, cornerback Tony Stargell and linemen Blaise Winter and Jeff Hunter to the defensive mix.

Still, despite all the additions on defense, all eyes this year are on Trent Dilfer, the record-setting quarterback from Fresno State whom the Bucs drafted sixth overall last spring. Dilfer could displace incumbent starter Craig Erickson if he reports on time and is a quick study in Wyche's no-huddle offense. But even if Dilfer develops into the franchise player he's supposed to be and fellow rookie Errict Rhett replaces the departed Reggie Cobb at running back, Tampa Bay will be hard-pressed to improve on its 25th-place finish in total offense of a year ago.

TOM DIPACE

Eric Curry was enjoying a fine rookie season until a sprained ankle sidelined him the last six weeks.

COACHING

Wyche kept insisting during the off-season that the 1994 Buccaneers will be much improved over the 1993 version.

He better hope so.

The luster that surrounded Wyche from his glory days in Cincinnati has faded, and anything less than a 7-9 record this season could result in the Bucs' third coaching change in the last five years. Heck, even an end to the team's streak of 11 straight seasons of double-digit defeats would be a nice present for long-suffering Tampa Bay fans.

There would be no shortage of candidates to replace Wyche, who has posted back-to-back seasons of 5-11 with the Bucs and is 71-88 in his National Football League career. The Jimmy Johnson rumors started even before the Cowboys' former coach had his bags packed in Dallas.

Wyche did shake up his staff in the off-season, with new assistants working with the receivers, defensive line and secondary. And who knows? If Wyche is able to groom Dilfer into a solid NFL quarterback and the Bucs' fortunes finally turn around, they may be singing his praises again in Tampa Bay.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—If Wyche said it once, he said it 100 times: "We are comfortable with our quarterback situation."

Hello, Trent Dilfer.

The Bucs simply could not afford to pass up Dilfer when he fell into their lap on draft day. While there's no doubt he could be the starter by the end of September, a lot depends on how soon Dilfer signs and how quickly he picks up the offense. One NFL coach called Dilfer the most prepared college quarterback he has ever seen. Dilfer certainly has the confidence to excel at this level.

Erickson did not have as poor a season as his 66.4 passer rating would imply. Considering the Bucs' pitiful running game, a season-ending injury to leading receiver Lawrence Dawsey and an offensive line that didn't include left tackle Paul Gruber for half of the season, it's a wonder Erickson didn't do worse.

But while Erickson probably can develop into an average NFL quarterback, Dilfer has the potential to be a franchise quarterback.

Mark Vlasic and Casey Weldon will battle in training camp for the No. 3 job.

RUNNING BACKS—Much like Dilfer, Rhett is expected to step in and fill a void. All Cobb did was lead Tampa Bay in rushing three straight years.

The Bucs like the fact that Rhett is versatile enough to stay on the field in all situations, which will aid their no-huddle attack. But it's unfair to label Rhett the second coming of Emmitt Smith, the player whose Florida career rushing record he broke last year. After all, Smith played three years at Florida, Rhett four.

Vince Workman, who played both full-

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: If the Buccaneers can find a defensive end to play opposite Eric Curry and someone to replace cornerback Ricky Reynolds, their defense could surprise some people. If Lawrence Dawsey recovers from knee surgery, the receiving corps might be the deepest position on the team. The kicking game, if not the return units, remains steady with place-kicker Michael Husted and punter Dan Stryzinski.

Weaknesses: The offense is very green. Errict Rhett is expected to start at running back and another rookie, Trent Dilfer, probably will be starting at quarterback as soon as he learns Sam Wyche's no-huddle attack. It's possible a rookie will start at tight end, too, or at least someone without much NFL experience. Defensively, the Bucs need to bolster an anemic pass rush that totaled just 29 sacks last year.

Keys to success: Dilfer may have to develop into the franchise quarterback the Bucs think he is sooner than expected if they're to fulfill Wyche's prediction of a playoff berth. The Bucs also must develop a winning attitude, but that's easier said than done on a team that hasn't been to the playoffs in 12 years.

That's a fact: If rookie center Jim Pyne makes the roster, he will become the first third-generation player in NFL history. His father played for the Boston Patriots in 1965 and his grandfather played for the Providence Steamroller, then an NFL club, from 1925-31.

Coach Sam Wyche says: "We've added too many good football players not to get better and better."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Hawkins	L. Thomas	Collins
LT	Gruber	Adams	
LG	Dill	Reimers	
C	Mayberry	Sullivan	Pyne
RG	Beckles	McRae	Love
RT	Irwin	Pierson	
TE	Armstrong	Bishop	Moore
WR	Dawsey	Copeland	C. Wilson
QB	Erickson	Dilfer	Vlasic
RB	Rhett	Workman	Royster
FB	McDowell	Harris	

DEFENSE

LE	Hunter	Hill	Ahanotu
UT	Dotson	Winter	
NT	Wheeler	B. Wilson	
RE	Curry	Price	
MLB	Nickerson	DuBose	
OLB	Marts	B. Thomas	B. Carter
OLB	Bussey	Lynch	
LCB	Stargell	Green	Jones
RCB	Mayhew	Mack	
SS	M. Carter	Covington	
FS	Everett	King	Paul

SPECIALISTS

K	Husted		
P	Stryzinski		
KR	Turner	C. Wilson	
PR	Turner	Hawkins	

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Sam Wyche.

Assistant coaches: • Maxie Baughan (linebackers) • Ken Clarke (defensive line) • David Culley (receivers) • Johnny Lynn (defensive backs) • Mike Mularkey (quality control) • Willie Peete (running backs) • Floyd Peters (defensive coordinator) • Brad Roll (strength) • Turk Schonert (quarterbacks) • George Stewart (special teams/tight ends) • Bob Wylie (offensive line).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 5-11 (5th in NFC Central); 3-5 in division; 4-8 in conference; 3-5 at home; 2-6 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Wyche's regular-season record: 10-22 in two seasons with Buccaneers; 71-88 overall in 10 NFL seasons with Buccaneers and Bengals.
Wyche's postseason record: 3-2 in two playoffs with Bengals (0-1 in Super Bowl).
Team record last five years: 24-56 (.300, ranks 27th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	12	25
Rushing offense	14	27
Passing offense	8	20
Scoring offense	11	23
Total defense	11	22
Rushing defense	11	23
Passing defense	10	18
Scoring defense	13	26
Takeaways	13	T24
Giveaways	13	T25
Turnover differential	13	T25
Sacks	13	T24
Sacks allowed	7	T14

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Trent Dilfer	QB	Fresno State
2nd	Errict Rhett	RB	Florida
3rd	Harold Bishop	TE	Louisiana State
5th	Pete Pierson	T	Washington
6th	Bernard Carter	LB	East Carolina
7th	Jim Pyne	C	Virginia Tech

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Chicago	12:00
Sept.	11	INDIANAPOLIS	1:00
Sept.	18	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Sept.	25	at Green Bay	12:00
Oct.	2	DETROIT	1:00
Oct.	9	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct.	16	Open date	
Oct.	23	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct.	30	MINNESOTA	4:00
Nov.	6	CHICAGO	1:00
Nov.	13	at Detroit	8:00
Nov.	20	at Seattle	1:00
Nov.	27	at Minnesota	12:00
Dec.	4	WASHINGTON	1:00
Dec.	11	L.A. RAMS	1:00
Dec.	18	at Washington	1:00
Dec.	24	GREEN BAY (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	KANSAS CITY	L	3-27
Sept.	12	at N.Y. Giants	L	7-23
Sept.	19	Open date		
Sept.	26	at Chicago	L	17-47
Oct.	3	DETROIT	W	27-10
Oct.	10	at Minnesota	L	0-15
Oct.	17	Open date		
Oct.	24	GREEN BAY	L	14-37
Oct.	31	at Atlanta	W	31-24
Nov.	7	at Detroit	L	0-23
Nov.	14	SAN FRANCISCO	L	21-45
Nov.	21	MINNESOTA	W	23-10
Nov.	28	at Green Bay	L	10-13
Dec.	5	WASHINGTON	L	17-23
Dec.	12	CHICAGO	W	13-10
Dec.	19	at L.A. Raiders	L	20-27
Dec.	26	at Denver	W	17-10
Jan.	2	SAN DIEGO	L	17-32

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Tampa Stadium (74,296, grass) • Ticket information: 813-870-2700 • Flagship radio station: WQYK, 99.5 FM • Training site: University of Tampa, Tampa, Fla.; 813-253-6215.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Hardy Nickerson's 214 tackles last season smashed the old team record by 40?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Tyji Armstrong	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Horace Copeland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Lawrence Dawsey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Craig Erickson	3	9	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Courtney Hawkins	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Michael Husted	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	3	27	—	—
Milton Mack	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Anthony McDowell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dave Moore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mazio Royster	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lamar Thomas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Vince Workman	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

back and running back in '93, probably will be a third-down specialist this year. However, don't be surprised to see him line up at fullback if the players at that position struggle.

Those players should be Anthony McDowell, who missed most of last season with ankle problems after a surprising rookie year in 1992, and Rudy Harris, the big blocking back that this team desperately needs.

RECEIVERS—If Dawsey returns and the young receivers and tight ends continue to develop, this could be one of the Bucs' deepest positions. Dawsey's knee was about 75 percent in the spring and was expected to be 100 percent by the start of camp. After leading Tampa Bay in receptions and yards in 1991 and 1992, Dawsey spent the bulk of last year recovering from major knee surgery.

After Dawsey was sidelined in early October, Courtney Hawkins became the Bucs' money receiver. Hawkins set career highs for receptions, yardage and touchdowns and became such a steady receiver that it was shocking when he dropped a pass late in the season.

Rookie Horace Copeland caught 23 passes, but Lamar Thomas, a Miami (Fla.) teammate of Copeland's, suffered through a miserable first year. Thomas caught only eight passes, lost his confidence and became a bit player by season's end.

The loss of tight end Ron Hall will hurt, but Hall dropped more passes than he made big plays in '93. A couple of youngsters are expected to take his place: third-year vet Tyji Armstrong and rookie Harold Bishop. The Bucs think Bishop, though rarely used in college, has major pass-catching potential.

LINEMEN—The best news here is that Gruber won't be suiting up for the first time in mid-October. Last year's contract holdout is history and Gruber could be primed for a Pro Bowl season.

The rest of the line should be solid if unspectacular. Tim Irwin will start at right tackle, and the former Minnesota Viking has not missed a non-strike game since 1982. Scott Dill, who played both tackle spots in '93, will line up at left guard. Tony Mayberry and Ian Beckles return to center and right guard, respectively, where they have started since 1990.

Depth, as always, is a concern. Charles McRae, a first-round pick in 1991, faces a make-or-break season. Bruce Reimers, a two-year starter at left guard, underwent ankle surgery last spring and could be at a crossroads of his 11-year career.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Eric Curry was on his way to defensive rookie-of-the-year plaudits until a severe ankle sprain sidelined him the last six weeks. Still, the first-round pick started 10 games, had five sacks and showed enough promise at defensive end that even the team's harshest critics had to admit that the Bucs did not blow another high pick.

The problem this year is finding a complement to him. Ray Seals signed with Pittsburgh after posting a career-high 8½ sacks and 24 quarterback pressures, and in his place Tampa Bay will audition at least four players. The Bucs had their sights set on free agent William Fuller, but the former Houston Oiler wanted too much money and ended

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rookie Trent Dilfer (right) probably will be Tampa Bay's starting quarterback as soon as he learns Sam Wyche's no-huddle attack.

up signing with Philadelphia. It's doubtful if any of the other candidates at left end has Fuller's talent.

Santana Dotson and Mark Wheeler return at the tackle positions, where free-agent signee Blaise Winter is expected to provide some needed depth.

LINEBACKERS—It's hard to imagine Nickerson topping his 1993 season, which included a team-record 214 tackles and a start in the Pro Bowl.

Nickerson's supporting cast, however, should be better. Lonnie Marts, a former starter in Kansas City, will line up at one outside post. Marts can play either side, rush the passer, stuff the run or drop back into pass coverage, which makes one wonder why the Chiefs did not try to re-sign him.

The other linebacker could be either Broderick Thomas, whose up-and-down career is at a key juncture, or one of the strong safeties who manned the position a year ago when defensive coordinator Floyd Peters switched to a 4-2-5 alignment for much of the second half of the season. The leading candidates for the latter job would be Barney Bussey and John Lynch.

Demetrius DuBose, who played outside linebacker as a rookie last year, will back up Nickerson in the middle this season.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—One hole was filled and another created when Everett arrived from Dallas and cornerback Ricky Reynolds left for New England.

Everett, who cost Tampa Bay a fourth-round draft pick in 1994 and a conditional one in 1995, should be the impact free safety this team has lacked for years. Marty Carter, who has 248 tackles the last two seasons, will start at strong safety.

While Reynolds will be tough to replace at one corner, Mayhew is hoping for a injury-free season on the other side. He played with a broken bone in his hand and sore knees for most of 1993. Still, he knocked away 15 passes and made 76 tackles.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Place-kicker Michael Husted should be around for years to come. He was a pleasant surprise as a rookie free agent a year ago and wound up kicking three field goals of at least 50 yards. His booming kickoffs resulted in 25 touchbacks.

Punter Dan Stryzinski has been steady in two seasons with Tampa Bay and there's no reason to believe the fifth-year veteran will slip.

The Bucs think Vernon Turner, a late-season acquisition from Detroit, will add some spice to the return game. Since the Bucs have never returned a punt or a kickoff for a touchdown in their 18-year history, he can't do much worse than others have done. ◆

1994 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
12	Dilfer, Trent	6-4/230	3-13-72	R	Fresno State	D1/94	—
7	Erickson, Craig	6-2/205	5-17-69	3	Miami (Fla.)	D4/92	16/15
13	Vlasic, Mark	6-3/205	10-25-63	6	Iowa	FA/93	0/0
11	Weldon, Casey	6-1/200	2-3-68	3	Florida State	FA/93	3/0
	RUNNING BACKS						
43	Harris, Rudy (FB)	6-1/255	9-18-71	2	Clemson	D4/93	10/2
33	McDowell, Anthony (FB)	5-11/235	11-12-68	3	Texas Tech	D8/92	4/3
32	Rhett, Errict	5-11/210	12-11-70	R	Florida	D2/94	—
31	Royster, Mazio	6-1/200	8-3-70	3	Southern California	D11/92	14/0
46	Workman, Vince	5-10/205	5-9-68	6	Ohio State	FA/93	16/11
	RECEIVERS						
86	Armstrong, Tyji (TE)	6-4/250	10-3-70	3	Mississippi	D3/92	12/7
82	Bishop, Harold (TE)	6-4/250	4-8-70	R	Louisiana State	D3/94	—
89	Collins, Shawn	6-2/205	2-20-67	6	Northern Arizona	FA/93	*4/0
88	Copeland, Horace	6-2/195	1-2-71	2	Miami (Fla.)	D4/93	14/8
1	Davis, Tyree	5-9/165	9-23-70	1	Central Arkansas	D7/93	0/0
80	Dawsey, Lawrence	6-0/195	11-16-67	4	Florida State	D3/91	4/4
85	Hawkins, Courtney (PR)	5-9/180	12-12-69	3	Michigan State	D2/92	16/12
83	Moore, Dave (TE)	6-2/245	11-11-69	2	Pittsburgh	FA/92	15/1
87	Thomas, Lamar	6-1/170	2-12-70	2	Miami (Fla.)	D3/93	14/2
84	Wilson, Charles (KR)	5-10/185	7-1-68	4	Memphis State	FA/92	15/1
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
73	Adams, Theo (T)	6-4/300	4-24-66	3	Hawaii	FA/93	7/0
62	Beckles, Ian (G)	6-1/295	7-20-67	5	Indiana	D5/90	14/14
76	Dill, Scott (G)	6-5/290	4-5-66	7	Memphis State	FA/90	16/16
74	Gruber, Paul (T)	6-5/290	2-24-65	7	Wisconsin	D1/88	10/10
78	Irwin, Tim (T)	6-7/300	12-13-58	14	Tennessee	FA/94	*16/16
79	Love, Sean (G)	6-3/290	9-6-68	2	Penn State	FA/93	2/0
61	Mayberry, Tony (C)	6-4/290	12-8-67	5	Wake Forest	D4/90	16/16
70	McRae, Charles (G)	6-7/300	9-16-68	4	Tennessee	D1/91	13/4
69	Pierson, Pete (T)	6-5/285	2-4-71	R	Washington	D5/94	—
60	Pyne, Jim (C)	6-2/280	11-23-71	R	Virginia Tech	D7/94	—
66	Reimers, Bruce (G)	6-7/300	9-28-60	11	Iowa State	FA/92	11/10
64	Ryan, Tim (G)	6-2/280	9-2-68	4	Notre Dame	D5/91	6/0
67	Sullivan, Mike (C)	6-3/290	12-22-67	3	Miami (Fla.)	FA/92	11/3
94	Trumbull, Rick	6-6/300	12-4-67	2	Missouri	T-Cle/93	0/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
72	Ahanotu, Chidi (E)	6-2/280	10-11-70	1	California	D6/93	16/10
75	Curry, Eric (E)	6-5/270	2-3-70	2	Alabama	D1/93	10/10
71	Dotson, Santana (T)	6-5/270	12-19-69	3	Baylor	D5/92	16/13
91	Hall, Rhett	6-2/270	12-5-68	4	California	D6/91	1/0
95	Hill, Tony (E)	6-6/255	10-23-68	3	UT-Chattanooga	FA/94	0/0
90	Hunter, Jeff (E)	6-4/291	4-12-66	5	Albany (Ga.) State	FA/94	*5/1
92	Price, Shawn (E)	6-5/260	3-28-70	2	Pacific	FA/93	9/6
77	Wheeler, Mark (NT)	6-2/280	4-1-70	3	Texas A&M	D3/92	10/10
96	Wilson, Bernard (NT)	6-2/295	8-17-70	2	Tennessee State	FA/93	13/2
99	Winter, Blaise (T)	6-4/295	1-31-62	10	Syracuse	FA/94	*16/16
	LINEBACKERS						
53	Brady, Ed	6-2/235	6-17-62	11	Illinois	FA/92	16/0
	Brady, Jeff	6-1/235	11-9-68	4	Kentucky	FA/94	*9/0
55	Brownlow, Darrick	6-0/240	12-28-68	4	Illinois	FA/92	15/0
59	Carter, Bernard	6-3/245	8-22-71	R	East Carolina	D6/94	—
93	DuBose, Demetrius	6-1/240	3-23-71	2	Notre Dame	D2/93	15/4
97	Marts, Lonnie	6-1/230	11-10-68	5	Tulane	FA/94	*16/15
56	Nickerson, Hardy	6-2/230	9-1-65	8	California	FA/93	16/16
51	Thomas, Broderick	6-4/250	2-20-67	6	Nebraska	D1/89	16/8
54	Williams, Jimmy	6-3/230	11-15-60	13	Nebraska	T-Min/93	11/8
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
44	Anderson, Darren (CB)	5-10/180	1-11-69	2	Toledo	FA/92	14/1
28	Buckley, Curtis	6-0/185	9-25-70	2	East Texas State	FA/93	10/2
27	Bussey, Barney (S)	6-0/210	5-20-62	9	South Carolina State	D5/92	16/7
23	Carter, Marty (S)	6-1/200	12-17-69	4	Middle Tennessee State	D8/91	16/14
25	Covington, Tony (S)	5-11/195	12-26-67	4	Virginia	D4/91	0/0
22	Everett, Thomas (S)	5-9/185	11-21-64	8	Baylor	T-Dal/94	*16/16
20	Gray, Jerry (S)	6-0/185	12-16-62	10	Texas	FA/93	14/5
26	Green, Rogerick (CB)	6-0/185	12-14-69	3	Kansas State	D5/92	0/0
24	Jones, Roger (CB)	5-9/175	4-22-69	4	Tennessee State	FA/91	16/5
41	King, Joe (S)	6-2/195	5-7-68	4	Oklahoma State	FA/92	15/10
47	Lynch, John (S)	6-2/220	9-25-71	2	Stanford	D3/93	15/4
21	Mack, Milton (CB)	5-11/195	9-20-63	8	Alcorn State	FA/92	12/3
35	Mayhew, Martin (CB)	5-8/175	10-8-65	7	Florida State	FA/93	15/14
36	Paul, Markus (S)	6-2/200	4-1-66	6	Syracuse	FA/93	*9/0
	Reynolds, Ricky (CB)	5-11/190	1-19-65	8	Washington State	D2/87	14/13
29	Stargell, Tony (CB)	5-11/190	8-7-66	5	Tennessee State	FA/94	*16/1
	SPECIALISTS						
5	Husted, Michael (K)	6-0/190	6-16-70	2	Virginia	FA/93	16/0
4	Stryzinski, Dan (P)	6-1/195	5-15-65	5	Indiana	FA/92	16/0
30	Turner, Vernon (KR/PR)	5-8/185	1-6-67	5	Carson-Newman (Tenn.)	FA/93	*8/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Joe Allison, K; Jerry Ellison, RB; Butch Hadnot, RB; Tommy Holliday, G; Scott Holstein, P; Vidal Mills, S; Cedric Saunders, TE; Eddie Small, WR; Dedric Smith, WR; Paul White, DB, Germaine Williams, FB.
*Not with Buccaneers in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

New coach vows to run and shoot, by George

By TONY FABRIZIO
Morris News Service, Atlanta

So bad was the Jerry Glanville Show the last couple of seasons that the Falcons' management not only pulled the plug, but it also went great lengths to change the concept.

The new emphasis under Glanville's low-key successor, June Jones, is on substance (over flash), solid defense, smart play and keeping egos in check.

It isn't as much fun now that Elvis doesn't come to practice and there are no tall tales about trading paint with Dale Earnhardt at 170 mph. But then, some fans didn't think back-to-back 6-10 records, a 41-3 loss to the 49ers on Monday Night Football and a setback to the Buccaneers at home were much fun, anyway.

A coaching change that was past due, a busy spring acquiring players and a gentler early-season schedule make a playoff berth a realistic goal. "There's no reason why we can't win," Jones said.

Jones promised that the off-season would be devoted to upgrading the defense, which gave up the most points in the NFL in '93. Three veteran starters were signed—end Chris Doleman, cornerback D.J. Johnson and safety Kevin Ross.

To stay within the salary cap, the Falcons had to let three key offensive performers get away. Guard Chris Hinton, an outstanding run blocker, signed with the Vikings, and speedy receiver Michael Haynes left for his native New Orleans. Receiver Mike Pritchard was traded to Denver for the Broncos' 1995 first-round pick.

The losses on offense could be offset by the acquisition of quarterback Jeff George. If he is as good as the coaches think he will be operating the run-and-shoot offense, the Falcons will again score a lot of points.

COACHING

Jones, 41, gets his first head-coaching job after a decade as an assistant, including stints under Glanville with the Oilers and Falcons. A backup quarterback to Steve Bartkowski from 1977 through '79 and '81 with the Falcons, Jones is a no-nonsense workaholic. "I think June is doing all the right things," Doleman said. "As ugly as it may seem when you get a new head coach, you're going to have to let people go. He stepped up and for the most part got rid of a lot of Jerry's old cronies and coaches and started his own following, which is what you have to do to be successful."

Jones is committed to the run-and-shoot offense, which critics see as a drawback. Mouse Davis, the leading authority on the run-and-shoot, is quarterbacks coach. The defensive coordinator is Jim Bates, an assistant with the Browns last year. Bates will deploy a 4-2-5 scheme that includes a "Falcon"—a hybrid linebacker/safety. Assistant head coach Frank Gansz is a special-teams master and former NFL head coach.

JEFF FISHBEIN

Quick, tough and compact, Erric Pegram came from virtual obscurity last year to rush for 1,185 yards.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Even his detractors acknowledge that George has a strong, accurate arm. George was second in the NFL last year in lowest interception ratio. During his four years with the Colts, he threw for 9,551 yards. George expects to be more relaxed in Atlanta than he was in his native Indianapolis.

"In this type of offense, with the talent they have here, it just suits me perfect," he said. "I can't remember when was the last time I dropped back and launched one 60, 70 yards. That's going to be nice to do."

The backup will be veteran Bobby Hebert, who went to the Pro Bowl last year as an alternate despite a season-long elbow ailment that required surgery after the season. He compensates for average talent with verve and competitive fire.

"Bobby Hebert, I think, is a starting quarterback in this league," Jones said. "We have the luxury this year of having two starting quarterbacks."

Chris Miller, who led the Falcons to the playoffs in 1991 but suffered injuries and inconsistency since, signed as a free agent with the Rams.

RUNNING BACKS—Erric Pegram came from virtual obscurity last year to rush for 1,185 yards, which ranked behind only Emmitt Smith, Jerome Bettis and Thurman Thomas in the NFL. Quick, tough and compact (5-foot-9), Pegram is well-suited to the Falcons' trap-oriented running game.

Tony Smith, a 1992 first-round draft selection out of Southern Mississippi, should play

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: The pass/catch combination of Jeff George and Andre Rison should be among the NFL's best. Bobby Hebert provides the rare luxury of an experienced starter as a backup quarterback. Chris Doleman's arrival improves a defensive line that includes tackles Pierce Holt and Jumpy Geathers. Place-kicker Norm Johnson is among the league's most accurate.

Weaknesses: Jessie Tuggle is the only proven commodity at linebacker, an area where the Falcons lack talent. On offense, the loss of veteran guard Chris Hinton via free agency and returning guard Lincoln Kennedy's weight problem create real doubt about the line's blocking capabilities.

Keys to success: First and foremost, the Falcons have to take advantage of a soft early schedule to reel off some quick victories. A game against the Buccaneers and two with the Rams come within the first six weeks. Second, the team must meld with new leadership on offense in George and on defense in Doleman.

That's a fact: Seven rookies contributed on last year's team, including five who started the final game (Kennedy, strong safety Roger Harper, punter Harold Alexander, tight end Mitch Lyons and linebacker Ron George).

Coach June Jones says: "The faster these new faces come together and the chemistry starts to mold, the faster we're really going to take off."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Rison	J. Phillips	
WR	Mims	Jones	Houston
LT	Kenn	Fortin	
LG	Kennedy	Kalaniuvalu	Alex
C	Fortin	Ruether	
RG	Zandofsky	Kalaniuvalu	Alex
RT	Whitfield	Alex	
WR	Mathis	Jones	Harris
WR	Emanuel	J. Phillips	
QB	J. George	Hebert	Klein
RB	Pegram	T. Smith	Anderson

DEFENSE

LE	C. Smith	Gann	Agee
LT	Holt	Gardner	Logan
RT	Geathers	Gardner	Goldberg
RE	Doleman	Archambeau	Gann
OLB	Tippins	Conner	
MLB	Tuggle	Davis	Gordon
OLB	R. George	Dinkins	Ford
LCB	Clark	Walker	A. Phillips
RCB	D.J. Johnson	Clark	A. Phillips
SS	Harper	Montgomery	
FS	Ross	Case	Washington

SPECIALISTS

K	N. Johnson	KR	T. Smith Mathis
P	Alexander	PR	T. Smith Mathis

in the backfield after being used as a kick and punt returner last year. Smith has size and strength (6-1, 220), which should be of particular help inside the red zone. An intriguing wild card is Jamal Anderson, a 246-pound fullback drafted in the seventh round out of Utah.

RECEIVERS—Andre Rison, whose 394 receptions is tops in NFL history for a player with only five years' experience, is a premier receiver. As brash as he is talented, Rison is reunited with receivers coach Milt Jackson, who coached him as a rookie with the Colts. Rison respects Jackson and Jones, and he promises to be a leader and positive influence.

Rison will have to do even more now because of the losses of Haynes and Pritchard, who combined for 146 catches and 11 touchdowns last year. Terance Mathis, signed as a free agent, showed flashes during his four years with the Jets. Second-round draft pick Bert Emanuel will be making the switch from quarterback. David Mims, a tailback at Baylor who made the team last year as a rookie free agent, could start. Mitch Lyons, primarily a blocker, returns at tight end.

LINEMEN—Bill Fralic, Houston Hoover and Hinton have left as free agents over the last two years. But the Falcons have taken steps to keep the unit respectable, using first-round picks in '91 and '92 on Bob Whitfield and Lincoln Kennedy and signing free agent Mike Zandofsky this year.

Zandofsky, who has played all five line positions, moves into Hinton's right-guard spot. Mike Kenn returns for his 17th season at left tackle, and Whitfield is solid at right tackle. Roman Fortin probably will seize the center job vacated by Jamie Dukes, who was waived this spring after eight seasons with the team.

There are concerns about depth, especially at tackle, and Kennedy's weight, which was up to 415 pounds in May.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—Long a weakness, the front four now looks like the most formidable in the NFC West. Doleman, a six-time Pro Bowl pick, is still a feared and confident pass rusher at 32.

"I definitely consider myself one of the three best, along with Reggie (White) and Bruce (Smith), and in no particular order," he said. Doleman's arrival should help tackle Pierce Holt, a Pro Bowl player with the 49ers, and take some pressure off the secondary. Jumpy Geathers, a free-agent signee last year, will start at the other tackle, backed up by Moe Gardner, a former starter and solid player. Chuck Smith should start at right end. Mike Gann, Lester Archambeau and Mel Agee have been starters.

"The thing I believe is that veteran guys are very key to success," Jones said. "In fact, I think as we're looking through this free-agency thing, George Allen wishes he was here right now."

LINEBACKERS—Middle linebacker Jessie (The Hammer) Tuggle led Atlanta in tackles last year for the fifth consecutive season. Ron George, a fifth-round draftee from Stanford in '93, is the leading candidate to play the "Falcon" spot. Darion Conner (an unrestricted free agent who was shopping for a new team), Ken Tippins and Howard Dinkins are the other linebackers. The Falcons will have to get better here to make the playoffs.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—For at least the first five games, and likely for the season, Deion Sanders won't be around to shut down half of the field from his right-cornerback spot. The Falcons may be able to get by without the Cincinnati Reds' outfielder, thanks to free-agent acquisitions Johnson and Ross.

Johnson and Vinnie Clark or Darnell Walker will start at cornerback. Clark started nine games last year and had a team-high 15

Continued

1994 ATLANTA FALCONS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
14	Gagliano, Bob	6-3/205	9-5-58	7	Utah State	FA/93	0/0
1	George, Jeff	6-4/218	12-8-67	5	Illinois	T-Ind/94	*13/11
3	Hebert, Bobby	6-4/215	8-19-60	9	Northwestern (La.) State	FA/93	14/12
7	Klein, Perry	6-2/218	3-25-71	R	C.W. Post	D4/94	—
11	Tolliver, Billy Joe	6-1/218	2-7-66	6	Texas Tech	T-SD/91	7/2
	RUNNING BACKS						
38	Anderson, Jamal	5-10/246	3-6-72	R	Utah	D7/94	—
33	Pegram, Erric	5-9/188	1-7-69	4	North Texas	D6/91	16/14
28	Smith, Tony (KR/PR)	6-1/220	6-29-70	2	Southern Mississippi	D1b/92	15/0
40	Wallace, Anthony	6-0/191	7-8-69	1	California	FA/93	0/0
	RECEIVERS						
81	Emanuel, Bert	5-10/171	10-27-70	R	Rice	D2/94	—
89	Houston, Harrison	5-9/174	1-26-72	R	Florida	D5/94	—
85	Jones, Tony	5-7/145	12-30-65	5	Texas	FA/94	*2/0
88	Le Bel, Harper (TE)	6-4/248	7-14-63	6	Colorado State	PlanB/91	16/0
86	Lyons, Mitch (TE)	6-4/255	5-13-70	2	Michigan State	D6/93	16/8
	Mathis, Terance (KR/PR)	5-10/177	6-7-67	5	New Mexico	FA/94	*16/3
34	Mims, David	5-8/191	7-7-70	1	Baylor	FA/93	15/2
82	Phillips, Jason	5-7/166	10-11-66	6	Houston	PlanB/91	6/0
80	Rison, Andre	6-1/188	3-18-67	6	Michigan State	T-IND/90	16/16
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
98	Age, Louis (T)	6-7/360	2-1-70	2	Southwestern Louisiana	FA/94	0/0
62	Alex, Keith (G/T)	6-4/307	6-9-69	1	Texas A&M	FA/93	14/0
65	Fortin, Roman (C/T)	6-5/295	2-26-67	5	San Diego State	PlanB/92	16/1
75	Kalanluvalu, Alai (G)	6-3/3.02	10-23-71	R	Oregon State	D3/94	—
78	Kenn, Mike (T)	6-7/286	2-9-56	17	Michigan	D1/78	16/16
66	Kennedy, Lincoln (G)	6-6/335	2-12-71	2	Washington	D1/93	16/16
55	Ruether, Mike (C)	6-4/288	9-20-62	9	Texas	PlanB/90	16/0
70	Whitfield, Bob (T)	6-5/308	10-18-71	2	Stanford	D1a/92	16/16
72	Zandofsky, Mike (G)	6-2/305	11-30-65	5	Washington	FA/94	*16/16
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
68	Agee, Mel (E)	6-5/298	11-22-68	2	Illinois	FA/92	11/7
92	Archambeau, Lester (E)	6-5/275	6-27-67	5	Stanford	T-GB/93	15/11
59	Doleman, Chris (E)	6-5/275	10-16-61	9	Pittsburgh	FA/94	*16/16
76	Gann, Mike (E)	6-5/270	10-19-63	10	Notre Dame	D2/85	8/8
67	Gardner, Moe (T)	6-2/261	8-10-68	4	Illinois	D4/91	16/16
97	Geathers, Jumpy (T)	6-7/290	6-26-60	11	Wichita State	FA/93	14/0
71	Goldberg, Bill (T)	6-2/266	12-27-66	1	Georgia	FA/93	5/0
95	Holt, Pierce (T)	6-4/275	1-1-62	95	Angelo State (Tex.)	FA/93	16/15
73	Logan, Ernie (T)	6-3/285	5-18-68	4	East Carolina	FA/93	8/1
	Noga, Niko	6-3/235	3-1-62	9	Hawaii	FA/94	0/0
96	Richardson, Huey (E)	6-4/243	2-2-68	2	Florida	FA/94	0/0
90	Smith, Chuck (E)	6-2/254	12-21-69	2	Tennessee	D2/92	15/1
94	Wilkins, David (E)	6-4/240	2-24-69	2	Eastern Kentucky	FA/94	0/0
	LINEBACKERS						
56	Conner, Darion	6-2/245	9-28-67	5	Jackson State	D2/90	14/10
99	Davis, Mitch	6-3/238	7-7-71	R	Georgia	D4/94	—
51	Dinkins, Howard	6-1/230	4-26-69	3	Florida State	D3/92	3/0
	Figaro, Cedric	6-3/258	8-17-66	6	Notre Dame	FA/94	0/0
	Ford, Darryl	6-1/225	6-22-66	2	New Mexico State	FA/94	*11/0
50	George, Ron	6-2/225	3-20-70	2	Stanford	D5/93	12/4
53	Gordon, Dwayne	6-1/231	11-2-69	2	New Hampshire	FA/93	5/0
52	Tippins, Ken	6-1/235	7-22-66	6	Middle Tennessee State	FA/90	14/1
58	Tuggle, Jessie	5-11/230	2-14-65	8	Valdosta State (Ga.)	FA/87	16/16
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
25	Case, Scott (S)	6-1/188	5-17-62	11	Oklahoma	D2/84	16/16
27	Clark, Vinnie (CB)	6-0/194	1-22-69	4	Ohio State	T-GB/93	15/9
47	Harper, Roger (S)	6-2/223	10-26-70	2	Ohio State	D2/93	16/12
29	Hatch, Lawrence (CB)	5-11/194	5-22-71	1	Florida	FA/94	0/0
44	Johnson, D.J. (CB)	6-0/183	7-14-66	5	Kentucky	FA/94	*16/15
22	Montgomery, Alton (S)	6-0/202	6-16-68	5	Houston	T-Den/93	8/0
26	Phillips, Anthony (CB)	6-0/217	10-5-70	R	Texas A&M-Kingsville	D3/94	—
36	Ross, Kevin (S)	5-9/182	1-16-62	9	Temple	FA/94	*15/15
21	Sanders, Deion (CB)	6-1/185	8-9-67	6	Florida State	D1/89	11/10
37	Shelley, Elbert (CB)	5-11/185	12-24-64	8	Arkansas State	D11/87	16/0
32	Stinson, Lemuel (CB)	5-9/180	5-10-66	6	Texas Tech	FA/93	0/0
45	Walker, Darnell (CB)	5-8/164	1-17-70	2	Oklahoma	D7/93	15/8
46	Washington, Charles (S)	6-1/217	10-8-66	6	Cameron (Okla.)	FA/93	6/0
	SPECIALISTS						
5	Alexander, Harold (P)	6-2/224	10-20-70	2	Appalachian State	D3/93	16/0
9	Johnson, Norm (K)	6-2/203	5-31-60	13	UCLA	FA/91	15/0
	Peterson, Todd (K)	5-10/175	2-4-70	1	Georgia	FA/94	0/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Bryan Addison, S; Rudy Barber, G; Mike Bedosky, G; Corey Dixon, WR; John Earle, G; Tony Harrison, WR; Jon Heldenreich, G; Eric Jack, CB; Keith Jack, WR; Tyoka Jackson, DE; John James, OL; Clint Johnson, WR; Pat Johnson, S; Tim Lowery, RB; Tim Paulk, LB; Joe Rogers, WR; Lamar Sally, DE; Darryl Spencer, WR; Robbie Tobeck, C; Tim Walton, CB; Stan White, QB; Thomas Williams, DT.
*Not with Falcons in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

ATLANTA FALCONS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: June Jones.

Assistant coaches: • Keith Armstrong (defense) • Jim Bates (defensive coordinator) • Greg Brown (secondary) • Mouse Davis (quarterbacks) • Frank Gansz (assistant head coach) • Joe Haering (linebackers) • Milt Jackson (wide receivers) • Tim Jorgensen (strength and conditioning) • Bill Kollar (defensive line) • Bob Palcic (offensive line) • Ollie Wilson (running backs).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 6-10 (3rd in NFC West); 4-2 in division; 5-7 in conference; 4-4 at home; 2-6 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Jones' regular-season record: First year as NFL head coach.
Team record last five years: 30-50 (.375, ranks T21st in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	5	11
Rushing offense	13	23
Passing offense	2	6
Scoring offense	6	12
Total defense	13	25
Rushing defense	6	15
Passing defense	14	25
Scoring defense	14	28
Takeaways	12	22
Giveaways	14	27
Turnover differential	14	28
Sacks	14	26
Sacks allowed	T8	T16

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
2nd	Bert Emanuel	WR	Rice
3rd	Anthony Phillips	CB	Texas A&M-Kingsville
3rd	Alai Kalaniuvalu	G	Oregon State
4th	Perry Klein	QB	C.W. Post
4th	Mitch Davis	LB	Georgia
5th	Harrison Houston	WR	Florida
7th	Jamal Anderson	RB	Utah

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	at Detroit	1:00
Sept.	11	L.A. RAMS	1:00
Sept.	18	KANSAS CITY	8:00
Sept.	25	at Washington	1:00
Oct.	2	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Oct.	9	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Oct.	16	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Oct.	23	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Oct.	30	Open date	
Nov.	6	SAN DIEGO	1:00
Nov.	13	at New Orleans	12:00
Nov.	20	at Denver	2:00
Nov.	27	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Dec.	4	at San Francisco	1:00
Dec.	11	NEW ORLEANS	8:00
Dec.	18	Green Bay at Milw.	12:00
Dec.	24	ARIZONA (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at Detroit	L	13-30
Sept.	12	NEW ORLEANS	L	31-34
Sept.	19	at San Francisco	L	30-37
Sept.	27	PITTSBURGH	L	17-45
Oct.	3	at Chicago	L	0-6
Oct.	10	Open date		
Oct.	14	L.A. RAMS	W	30-24
Oct.	24	at New Orleans	W	26-15
Oct.	31	TAMPA BAY	L	24-31
Nov.	7	Open date		
Nov.	14	at L.A. Rams	W	13-0
Nov.	21	DALLAS	W	27-14
Nov.	28	CLEVELAND	W	17-14
Dec.	5	at Houston	L	17-33
Dec.	11	SAN FRANCISCO	W	27-24
Dec.	19	at Washington	L	17-30
Dec.	26	at Cincinnati	L	17-21
Jan.	2	PHOENIX	L	10-27

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Georgia Dome (71,280, artificial) • Ticket information: 404-223-8000 • Flagship radio station: WSB, 750 AM • Training site: Atlanta Falcon Complex, Suwanee, Ga.; 404-945-1111.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Deion Sanders in five seasons accumulated 4,857 yards on kick and punt returns, interceptions and receptions? He also scored 10 touchdowns (three on interceptions, three on kickoff returns, two on punt returns and two as a receiver).

JIMMY CRIBB

Thanks to players like Pierce Holt, Atlanta's defensive line is now a strength.

pass defenses, in part because teams were throwing away from Sanders. Walker started eight of the final 11 games and had two interceptions in his first start. An intriguing prospect at corner is third-round draft choice Anthony Phillips, who dominated on the small-college level at Texas A&M-Kingsville. Phillips is a big corner (6-0, 217) who can run (4.38 speed over 40 yards).

Ross, who made the Pro Bowl twice as a corner, takes over at free safety for Scott Case, a gutsy player but a liability in pass coverage. Roger Harper, who started 12 games at strong safety last year as a rookie, should play more instinctively in '94.

There are no superstars in the Falcons' secondary without Sanders, but there is no glaring vulnerability, either.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Glanville put extra emphasis on special teams, making them among the best in the league. That shouldn't change under Jones, who hired one of the league's most respected special-teams coaches in Gansz.

The Falcons feature excellent players in place-kicker Norm Johnson, punter Harold Alexander and return specialist Smith. Johnson's near-perfect '93 season (26 field goals in 27 attempts) earned him a Pro Bowl berth, and he brings a streak of seven successful field goals of 50 yards-plus into this season. Alexander ranked fifth in the NFL in net punting average (37.6 yards) last year.

Smith finished third in the league in kickoff-return average (24.9 yards) and in combined return yards (1,203). Mathis is a talented returner, gaining 2,426 yards in four years with the Jets. He tied an NFL mark with a 98-yard punt return against Dallas. ◆

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Vinnie Clark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Jeff George	5	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Bobby Hebert	13	8	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Norm Johnson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	7	2	34	—	—
Terance Mathis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
David Mims	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erric Pegram	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Andre Rison	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	15
Deion Sanders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tony Smith	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Billy Joe Tolliver	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Improved Rams prepare to turn the corner in '94

By JIM THOMAS

Copley Los Angeles Newspapers

Looking for a sleeper pick in 1994? The Rams, after four losing seasons, have quietly put themselves in position to turn the corner in Coach Chuck Knox's third year.

After a busy off-season of free-agent signings, trades and their third straight strong draft, the Rams have the look of a team on the move. And that isn't just a reference to where they might play football in 1995.

Question marks remain for a team that was a combined 11-21 the last two seasons, but the 1994 Rams should have more speed and more big-play talent, better depth on both sides of the ball, vastly improved special teams and less vulnerability to the injuries that crippled them a year ago.

They almost can't help but be better at two of football's most important spots—quarterback and defensive line. When Knox traded Jim Everett, signed Chris Miller for $3 million a year and traded for more picks rather than draft Trent Dilfer, he made a bold statement: Forget the franchise quarterback who might be ready in 1995 or 1996; Knox wants a deeper squad that can win now.

"This is the direction we decided to go in," Knox said. "We needed help in a lot of areas, and we've made the best moves we could to improve them. We like the players we've added to the mix, and we think they'll make us a better football team."

If he's right, Knox might actually help keep the Rams in the L.A. area. A playoff contender could lure back the fans who stayed away in record numbers in 1993 and convince Owner Georgia Frontiere that the grass isn't necessarily greener on the other side of Beverly Hills.

If Knox is wrong, get ready for the Baltimore Rams and a new coach in '95. Or is that the St. Louis Rams? The Memphis Rams?

COACHING

After two seasons in his second tenure in Los Angeles, Knox made several changes on his staff, which resembles the one he assembled in Seattle (1983-91). And that means the Rams' system now figures to be patterned after what the Seahawks did on both defense and offense.

GEORGE GOJKOVICH

Questions remain about the Rams' receiving corps, which includes Willie Anderson.

Offensive coordinator Ernie Zampese, a fixture in L.A. since 1987, left for Dallas and was replaced by running backs coach Chick Harris, a longtime Knox assistant who promises the offense won't revert to "Ground Chick." Steve Moore, Knox's offensive coordinator in Seattle, was lured out of private business to become the new receivers coach.

Two highly respected Redskins assistants, special-teams coach Wayne Sevier and tight ends coach Warren Simmons, also joined Knox's staff. Sevier will play a vital role in helping to shore up a weak area.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—The Rams were so desperate to unload Everett after his horrendous '93 season they gave him to the division-rival Saints for a seventh-round draft pick in 1995. They completed the makeover by signing two capable veterans who should provide the leadership and passing touch that was lost when Everett's psyche was damaged.

Former Falcons quarterback Miller, a Pro Bowler in 1991, will be the starter and will give the Rams a huge lift if the knee that was surgically repaired in both '92 and '93 holds up. A good athlete with a strong arm and proven leadership abilities, Miller should flourish on natural grass and in a system where he can hand off to Jerome Bettis.

Chris Chandler, a bigger and better passer than last year's backup, T.J. Rubley, provides insurance in case the Rams' doctors are wrong about Miller's knee. He's not exactly a budding star, but he has had success as a starter in Indianapolis, Tampa Bay and Arizona, and he has the skills to run the Rams' balanced offense better than Everett did a year ago.

RUNNING BACKS—The Rams hit the jackpot when they drafted Bettis. The 5-foot-11, 243-pound powerhouse proved to be a more explosive breakaway threat than anyone imagined. Bettis averaged an eye-opening 4.9 yards per carry while gaining 1,429 yards and earning NFL Rookie of the Year honors. He tops a deep position, giving the Rams a punishing weapon around which they can build a balanced offense.

Tim Lester, a 10th-round draft pick in 1992, made great strides as the starting fullback in '93. He is an underrated runner, and his blocking was a key factor in Bettis' sweeps down the stretch.

Cleveland Gary, a slow but sure-handed and nifty power back, will back up Bettis if he isn't traded. David Lang, the Rams' fastest back, is a question mark because of off-season knee surgery but could be a pleasant surprise.

James Bostic, a third-round pick from Auburn, figures to be a solid backup to both Bettis and Lester and should excel on special teams. Russell White and Howard Griffith provide excellent depth.

RECEIVERS—The Rams made half a dozen moves that should upgrade a major

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: Running back Jerome Bettis can butt heads for extra yards or sprint out for 50 yards if there's an opening. He forces defenses to respect the run. Center Bern Brostek anchors strong interior run-blocking. Defensive tackles Sean Gilbert and Jimmie Jones, formerly of the Dallas Cowboys, provide the foundation for a fearsome foursome.

Weaknesses: The Rams have no go-to guy at wide receiver and only three quality cornerbacks, making them vulnerable to injury. There is no depth at left tackle, where the Rams are counting on a rookie, Auburn's Wayne Gandy.

Keys to success: If quarterback Chris Miller's repaired knee holds up, Gandy gets the job done at left tackle and tight end Troy Drayton matures, the Rams' offense will produce time-consuming drives. Gilbert leads the Rams' front four, and if they stay healthy, they'll torment quarterbacks and the defense will prosper. If the passing game is out of sync, the question must be raised: Was it all Jim Everett's fault? If it wasn't, there's no simple solution.

That's a fact: In previous coaching stints with the Rams, Bills and Seahawks, Chuck Knox has never been worse than 8-8 in his third season. He was 12-2 with the Rams in '75, 11-5 with the Bills in '80 and 8-8 with the Seahawks in '85.

Coach Chuck Knox says: "We haven't been very good on special teams the past two years. We think we've added enough good athletes who can run and are tough to get back to where our special teams are special again."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Lewis	Bruce	Ernie Jones
LT	Gandy	Pahukoa	
LG	Newberry	Belin	
C	Brostek	Fichtel	
RG	Loneker	Goeas	Pahukoa
RT	Ashmore	Slater	Robbins
TE	Drayton	McNeal	Brady
WR	Anderson	McMurtry	Kinchen
QB	Miller	Chandler	Rubley
FB	Lester	Bostic	Griffith
TB	Bettis	Lang	White

DEFENSE

LE	Young	Ottis	Robinson
LT	J. Jones	Boutte	
RT	Gilbert	Rocker	Farr
RE	Stokes	Ottis	Robinson
LLB	Rolling	Ernest Jones	Kelly
MLB	Conlan	Kelly	Homco
RLB	Phifer	Ernest Jones	
CB	Lyght	Hicks	Griffin
CB	Bailey	Israel	
SS	Wright	Lyle	Boykin
FS	Pope	Newman	Lyle

SPECIALISTS

K	Zendejas	KR	Lewis
P	Landeta	PR	Lewis

Lang
Kinchen

LOS ANGELES RAMS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Chuck Knox.

Assistant coaches: • Chris Clausen (strength and conditioning) • George Dyer (defensive coordinator/defensive line) • Jim Erkenbeck (offensive line) • Greg Gaines (defensive assistant) • Chick Harris (offensive coordinator/running backs) • Mike Martz (quarterbacks) • Steve Moore (wide receivers) • Rod Perry (defensive backs) • Dick Selcer (linebackers) • Wayne Sevier (special teams) • Rennie Simmons (tight ends) • Joe Vitt (assistant head coach/safeties).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 5-11 (4th in NFC West); 1-5 in division; 3-9 in conference; 3-5 at home; 2-6 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Knox's regular-season record: 65-36-1 in seven seasons with Rams; 182-135-1 overall in 21 NFL seasons with Rams, Bills and Seahawks.
Knox's postseason record: 3-5 in five playoffs with Rams; 7-11 overall in 11 playoffs with Rams, Bills and Seahawks.
Team record last five years: 30-50 (.375, ranks T21st in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	8	18
Rushing offense	4	5
Passing offense	11	23
Scoring offense	14	26
Total defense	12	24
Rushing defense	9	18
Passing defense	13	22
Scoring defense	12	25
Takeaways	14	28
Giveaways	T4	T11
Turnover differential	12	23
Sacks	9	T16
Sacks allowed	3	T7

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Wayne Gandy	T	Auburn
2nd	Isaac Bruce	WR	Memphis State
2nd	Toby Wright	SS	Nebraska
2nd	Brad Ottis	DE	Wayne (Neb.) State
3rd	Keith Lyle	S	Virginia
3rd	James Bostic	FB	Auburn
3rd	Ernest Jones	LB	Oregon
4th	Chris Brantley	WR	Rutgers
6th	Rickey Brady	TE	Oklahoma
6th	Ronald Edwards	T	North Carolina A&T

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	ARIZONA	1:00
Sept. 11	at Atlanta	1:00
Sept. 18	SAN FRANCISCO	1:00
Sept. 25	at Kansas City	12:00
Oct. 2	ATLANTA	1:00
Oct. 9	at Green Bay	12:00
Oct. 16	N.Y. GIANTS	1:00
Oct. 23	at New Orleans	12:00
Oct. 30	Open date	
Nov. 6	DENVER	1:00
Nov. 13	L.A. RAIDERS	1:00
Nov. 20	at San Francisco	5:00
Nov. 27	at San Diego	1:00
Dec. 4	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Dec. 11	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Dec. 18	at Chicago	12:00
Dec. 24	WASHINGTON (Sat.)	1:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept. 5	at Green Bay (Milw.)	L	6-36
Sept. 12	PITTSBURGH	W	27-0
Sept. 19	at N.Y. Giants	L	10-20
Sept. 26	at Houston	W	28-13
Oct. 3	NEW ORLEANS	L	6-37
Oct. 10	Open date		
Oct. 14	at Atlanta	L	24-30
Oct. 24	DETROIT	L	13-16
Oct. 31	at San Francisco	L	17-40
Nov. 7	Open date		
Nov. 14	ATLANTA	L	0-13
Nov. 21	WASHINGTON	W	10-6
Nov. 28	SAN FRANCISCO	L	10-35
Dec. 5	at Phoenix	L	10-38
Dec. 12	at New Orleans	W	23-20
Dec. 19	at Cincinnati	L	3-15
Dec. 26	CLEVELAND	L	14-42
Jan. 2	CHICAGO	W	20-6

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Anaheim Stadium (69,008, grass) • Ticket information: 714-937-6767 • Flagship radio station: KMPC, 710 AM • Training site: UC Irvine, Irvine, Calif.; 714-870-8202.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the Rams had 17 sacks in their first four games in 1993, then managed just 18 more over the final 12 games after defensive end Robert Young was hurt?

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Willie Anderson	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Jerome Bettis	—	—	—	—	5	1	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Chris Chandler	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Troy Drayton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Cleveland Gary	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ernie Jones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Todd Kinchen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nate Lewis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Travis McNeal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chris Miller	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
T.J. Rubley	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Tony Zendejas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	6	23	—	—

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

weakness, but questions remain. They definitely improved their depth at the wideout spot, trading for San Diego's Nate Lewis, signing free agent Greg McMurtry and drafting Isaac Bruce in the second round, but they didn't acquire an obvious go-to guy.

Lewis, while prone to the occasional dropped pass, adds speed and big-play ability. McMurtry gives the Rams a big possession receiver, and Bruce has the potential to become a star in time. They join deep threat Willie (Flipper) Anderson, whose best years were from 1988-90, injury-prone Todd Kinchen, unproven Sean LaChapelle and Ernie Jones, a disappointment in '93 after being acquired from the Cardinals.

Tight end also is a question mark, although there's every reason to believe that Troy Drayton is ready to blossom in his second season. A second-round pick in '93, he made steady improvement as a rookie, catching 27 passes for 319 yards. Once he learns the ins and outs of being a National Football League tight end, he should be good for 50 catches a year.

The Rams suffered a blow when Pat Carter left for Houston, but Travis McNeal provides steady blocking ability.

LINEMEN—The Rams are strong in the middle with center Bern Brostek, a Pro Bowl candidate, and a number of powerful guards, including two-time Pro Bowler Tom Newberry, Leo Goeas, Keith Loneker and Chuck Belin. But the keys to the line's performance are young tackles such as Wayne Gandy and Darryl Ashmore.

Gandy, the Rams' No. 1 pick, will start at left tackle. Gandy is very athletic and has natural pass-blocking skills, so the Rams are betting he can become an effective starter immediately.

Ashmore has impressed the Rams since he arrived in 1992. Despite a preseason knee injury, he came on fast enough to start seven of the last eight games for injured Jackie Slater last season. He has the size (6-7, 300 pounds) to be a force for years, if he stays healthy.

Going into the season, the Rams were trying to add one more tackle to the mix. Slater will help, playing his 19th and final season.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—A huge weakness just two years ago, the Rams' front four features Pro Bowl tackle Sean Gilbert, who has the potential to be among the league's best and anchor what could be a much better defense.

Gilbert emerged as a force last season, recording 10½ sacks despite being double-teamed on most plays. He should be much improved this fall, thanks to the critical acquisition of free-agent tackle Jimmie Jones, who has the speed and skill to be a strong pass rusher in his own right. Together, they should be hard for any offense to control.

Steady Fred Stokes, good for eight to 10 sacks, returns on the right side, with Robert Young back at left end. Young was off to a great start in '93, recording seven sacks in four games before a knee injury ruined his season. If he continues to improve in his fourth season, the Rams are sure to have an imposing pass rush.

Tackle Marc Boutte, a starter the last two years, and rookie end Brad Ottis, a sleeper pick in the second round, give the Rams two

COURTESY OF LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sean Gilbert has the potential to be among the league's best defensive tackles.

capable young backups.

LINEBACKERS—Middle linebacker Shane Conlan and outside linebackers Henry Rolling and Roman Phifer give the Rams a solid starting corps. Conlan and Rolling were slowed by nagging injuries last season and could improve if they stay healthy. Phifer is looking to make the Pro Bowl after recording 96 solo tackles in his third year.

The addition of free-agent middle linebacker Joe Kelly, a starter for the Raiders in '93, and third-round draft pick Ernest Jones gives the Rams plenty of depth in case injuries hit again.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The Rams, solid at cornerback despite Darryl Henley's drug-related leave of absence, have needed more athletic safeties for years. Thanks to a series of off-season moves, they should have them. And that should breathe some big-play life into a secondary that accounted for just seven interceptions in 1993.

Free safety Marquez Pope, acquired from San Diego in a trade, and draft picks Toby Wright and Keith Lyle give the Rams a physical presence they have lacked since the heyday of Johnnie Johnson and Nolan Cromwell. Returning starter Anthony Newman adds depth.

The Rams could use a fourth cornerback, but Todd Lyght began to fulfill his potential in '93 and Steve Israel and Robert Bailey showed promise. As long as the safeties come through, they can play a solid six defensive-back package.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Punter Sean Landeta and dependable place-kicker Tony Zendejas return, but everything else about the Rams' special teams will be new and improved after a deep draft that supplied speed and toughness.

The Rams' coverage teams were horrible last year, but they will be much more athletic. Knox should no longer need to hold his breath on every punt and kickoff.

The Rams totaled an incredibly low 102 yards on punt returns and averaged just 16.8 yards per kick return last season. This year's return teams, featuring the fast and powerful Lewis on kickoffs and either Lewis or Kinchen on punts, should provide a spark that has been missing for years. ◆

1994 LOS ANGELES RAMS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
	Chandler, Chris	6-4/220	10-12-65	7	Washington	FA/94	*4/2
13	Miller, Chris	6-2/212	8-9-65	8	Oregon	FA/94	*3/2
12	Rubley, T.J.	6-3/205	11-29-68	3	Tulsa	D9/92	9/7
	RUNNING BACKS						
36	Bettis, Jerome	5-11/243	2-16-72	2	Notre Dame	D1/93	16/12
33	Bostic, James (FB)	5-11/230	3-13-72	R	Auburn	D3/94	—
43	Gary, Cleveland	6-0/226	5-4-66	6	Miami (Fla.)	D1A/89	15/4
30	Griffith, Howard (FB)	6-0/226	11-17-67	2	Illinois	FA/93	15/0
38	Lang, David (KR)	5-11/213	3-28-68	4	Northern Arizona	D12/90	6/0
34	Lester, Tim (FB)	5-9/215	6-15-68	3	Eastern Kentucky	D10/92	16/14
44	White, Russell	5-11/216	12-15-70	2	California	D3/93	5/0
	RECEIVERS						
83	Anderson, Willie	6-0/172	3-7-65	7	UCLA	D2B/88	15/15
45	Blackwell, Kelly (TE)	6-1/255	2-13-69	1	Texas Christian	FA/93	*2/0
48	Brady, Rickey (TE)	6-4/246	11-19-70	R	Oklahoma	D6/94	—
2	Brantley, Chris	5-10/180	12-12-70	R	Rutgers	D4/94	—
80	Bruce, Isaac	6-0/178	11-10-72	R	Memphis State	D2/94	—
89	Buchanan, Richard	5-10/178	5-8-69	2	Northwestern	FA/93	5/0
84	Drayton, Troy (TE)	6-3/255	6-29-70	2	Penn State	D2/93	16/2
86	Jones, Ernie	6-0/200	12-16-64	7	Indiana	T-Pho/93	10/0
81	Kinchen, Todd (PR)	6-0/187	1-7-69	3	Louisiana State	D3/92	6/1
88	LaChapelle, Sean	6-3/205	7-29-70	2	UCLA	D5/93	10/0
87	Lewis, Nate (KR/PR)	5-11/198	10-19-66	5	Oregon Tech	T-SD/94	*15/9
	McMurtry, Greg	6-2/207	10-15-67	5	Michigan	FA/94	*14/8
82	McNeal, Travis (TE)	6-3/244	1-10-67	6	UT-Chattanooga	FA/92	16/6
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
77	Ashmore, Darryl (T)	6-7/300	11-1-69	2	Northwestern	D7/92	9/7
71	Belin, Chuck (G)	6-3/325	10-27-70	1	Wisconsin	D5/93	0/0
61	Brostek, Bern (C)	6-3/300	9-11-66	5	Washington	D1/90	16/16
51	Bush, Blair (C)	6-3/275	11-25-56	17	Washington	PlanB/92	16/0
67	Edwards, Ronald (T)	6-5/311	9-18-71	R	North Carolina A&T	D6/94	—
68	Fichtel, Brad (C)	6-2/285	3-10-70	1	Eastern Illinois	D7/93	0/0
70	Gandy, Wayne (T)	6-4/289	2-10-71	R	Auburn	D1/94	—
79	Goeas, Leo (G/T)	6-4/292	8-15-66	5	Hawaii	T-SD/93	16/16
64	Loneker, Keith (G)	6-3/330	6-21-71	2	Kansas	FA/93	4/2
66	Newberry, Tom (G)	6-2/285	12-20-62	9	Wisconsin-La Crosse	D2/86	9/9
69	Pahukoa, Jeff (G/T)	6-2/298	2-9-69	4	Washington	D12/91	16/5
72	Robbins, Kevin (T)	6-4/286	12-12-67	4	Michigan State	FA/93	1/0
78	Slater, Jackie (T)	6-4/285	5-27-54	19	Jackson State	D3/76	8/8
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
96	Boutte, Marc (T)	6-4/298	7-26-69	3	Louisiana State	D3A/92	16/16
90	Gilbert, Sean (T)	6-4/315	4-10-70	3	Pittsburgh	D1/92	16/16
98	Jones, Jimmie (T)	6-4/276	1-9-66	5	Miami (Fla.)	FA/94	*15/2
95	Ottis, Brad (E)	6-4/272	8-2-72	R	Wayne State (Neb.)	D2/94	—
97	Robinson, Gerald (E)	6-3/262	5-4-63	7	Auburn	PlanB/91	16/3
92	Rocker, David (T)	6-4/267	3-12-69	3	Auburn	FA/91	14/0
60	Stokes, Fred (E)	6-3/274	3-14-64	8	Georgia Southern	FA/93	15/15
99	Tanuvasa, Maa (T)	6-2/277	11-6-70	2	Hawaii	D8/93	0/0
76	Young, Robert (E)	6-6/273	1-29-69	4	Mississippi State	D5/91	6/6
	LINEBACKERS						
54	Collins, Brett	6-1/234	10-8-68	3	Washington	W-GB/93	14/0
56	Conlan, Shane	6-3/235	3-4-64	8	Penn State	FA/93	12/11
57	Homco, Thomas	6-0/245	1-8-70	2	Northwestern	FA/92	16/3
50	Jones, Ernest	6-2/239	4-1-71	R	Oregon	D3/94	—
	Kelly, Joe	6-2/230	12-11-64	9	Washington	FA/94	*16/14
53	Martin, Chris	6-2/241	12-19-60	12	Auburn	T-KC/93	16/4
58	Phifer, Roman	6-2/230	3-5-68	4	UCLA	D2/91	16/16
59	Rolling, Henry	6-2/225	9-8-65	7	Nevada	FA/93	12/9
55	White, Leon	6-3/242	10-4-63	9	Brigham Young	FA/92	14/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
28	Bailey, Robert (CB)	5-9/176	9-3-68	3	Miami (Fla.)	D4/91	9/3
21	Boykin, Deral (S)	5-11/196	9-2-70	2	Louisville	D6/93	16/0
29	Davis, Dexter (CB)	5-10/185	3-20-70	4	Clemson	FA/93	12/4
42	Griffin, Courtney (CB)	5-10/180	12-19-66	2	Fresno State	FA/92	7/1
24	Henderson, Wymon (CB)	5-10/188	12-15-61	9	UNLV	FA/93	9/4
20	Henley, Darryl (CB)	5-9/172	10-30-66	6	UCLA	D2B/89	5/4
23	Hicks, Clifford (CB)	5-10/187	8-18-64	8	Oregon	FA/94	*10/0
31	Israel, Steve (CB)	5-11/186	3-16-69	3	Pittsburgh	D2/92	16/12
41	Lyght, Todd (CB)	6-0/186	2-9-69	4	Notre Dame	D1/91	9/9
35	Lyle, Keith (S)	6-2/204	4-17-72	R	Virginia	D3/94	—
26	Newman, Anthony (S)	6-0/199	11-25-65	7	Oregon	D2/88	16/16
22	Pope, Marquez (S)	5-10/193	10-29-70	3	Fresno State	T-SD/94	*16/1
27	Price, Mitchell (CB)	5-9/181	5-10-67	5	Tulane	FA/93	6/0
37	Terrell, Pat (S)	6-0/195	3-18-68	5	Notre Dame	D2/90	13/3
25	Wilson, David (S)	5-10/192	6-10-70	1	California	FA/94	0/0
32	Wright, Toby (S)	5-11/203	11-19-70	R	Nebraska	D2/94	—
	SPECIALISTS						
15	Buffaloe, Jeff (P)	6-1/194	9-18-70	1	Memphis State	D8/93	0/0
5	Landeta, Sean (P)	6-0/210	1-6-62	10	Towson State	FA/93	16/0
10	Zendejas, Tony (K)	5-8/165	5-15-60	10	Nevada	PlanB/91	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Beno Bryant, RB; Jeff Esters, DT; Willie Farmer, WR; Jamie Martin, QB; Andy Mason, LB; Kevin McDougal, QB; Turhon O'Bannon, WR; Kevin Patrick, DE; Jermaine Ross, WR; Rusty Setzer, RB; Matt Turk, P.
*Not with Rams in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

New players look to ignite Saints' dormant offense

By MIKE STROM
Times-Picayune

The New Orleans Saints have been criticized often in recent years for maintaining an offense conservative enough to make even Rush Limbaugh proud.

Those right-wing ways caught up with the Saints in 1993, when the defense slipped and the offense was not capable of taking up the slack. The offense, in fact, poured fuel on the fire by committing eight turnovers that were returned for touchdowns.

So, the Saints decided to fight fire with fire and went about upgrading the offense through free agency, trades and the draft.

The most significant acquisitions involved a trade with the Los Angeles Rams for quarterback Jim Everett and the free-agent signings of wide receiver Michael Haynes from Atlanta and center Jeff Uhlenhake from Miami.

Everett and Haynes, both of whom are respected for their ability to produce quick, long scores, are expected to pump life into a passing attack that was one of the National Football League's worst (21st out of 28 teams).

The Saints drafted two more players with quick-strike capability in Arizona State running back Mario Bates and Texas Tech wide receiver Derrell Mitchell. The team also added a potential quarterback for the future in lefthander Doug Nussmeier of Idaho.

"I think we're going to be a better offensive team, if we stay healthy," said Saints Coach Jim Mora, who stopped short of proclaiming this group of offensive skill-position players the best he's had in nine seasons in New Orleans.

"I can't say that right now," he said. "We'll see how they'll produce."

The goal is to produce enough points to be competitive while the defense retools. Shoring up the defense against the run is most critical.

Last year, this area was severely hampered by injuries to inside linebacker Sam Mills, nose tackle Jim Wilks, end Frank Warren and strong safety Brett Maxie. Those four players missed a total of 38 games and failed to start an average of 12 games apiece.

Age also appears to be catching up with the defense. Wilks, 35, was not asked back, and outside linebacker Rickey Jackson (36), Mills (35), Warren (34), Maxie (32) and inside linebacker Vaughan Johnson (32) are nearing the end of their careers.

So, younger players must step up if the Saints are to rebound from last season's 8-8 record, which followed two seasons that produced 23 victories and broke a string of three consecutive playoff appearances.

COACHING

Mora, the second-most tenured coach in the league behind Miami's Don Shula, added the title of team vice president in the off-season. But with two years remaining on his contract, Mora also realizes that he must reverse the disappointing slide that the Saints ended the season on (eight losses in their final 11 games) if he is to remain in power.

To that end, Mora has hired a new offensive-line coach, John Matsko from the Arizona Cardinals, to emphasize a more physical, aggressive approach in run-blocking. Chip Myers, formerly with the New York Jets, also was added offensively to help with the receivers and passing game.

Defensive coordinator Steve Sidwell has been freed from the responsibility of coaching the inside linebackers to concentrate on his game-planning. Under Sidwell, the Saints allowed the fewest points in the NFL in 1991 and 1992.

Before last season, Mora and his staff had always enjoyed a reputation for getting the most out of teams not considered to be blessed with talent. In this regard, 1994 may prove to be their ultimate challenge.

Versatile Renaldo Turnbull, who is coming off an All-Pro season, is a special player.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—Everett represents the Saints' third different starting quarterback in as many seasons. He replaces Wade Wilson, the '93 starter, who was released and then re-signed to be Everett's backup. Wilson is expected to be the only holdover from last year's threesome; Steve Walsh was released and Mike Buck faced a similar fate. The new No. 3 guy likely will be fourth-round draft pick Nussmeier.

Everett must prove that last season, in which he was benched by the Rams in favor of T.J. Rubley, was a fluke. Otherwise, the Saints will have made a bad gamble in passing up the opportunity to sign Brett Favre away from the Packers.

It will be interesting to see if the Saints tailor their offense to fit Everett's ability to throw deep or if they make him conform to their short passing game.

RUNNING BACKS—With the return of Derek Brown (last year's leading rusher), the expected return to health of Vaughn Dunbar and the addition of Bates, this could be a position of strength. Dunbar, who is recovering from a ligament tear in his right

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: No falloff is expected at inside or outside linebacker, even if unrestricted free agents Sam Mills and Rickey Jackson do not re-sign and are replaced by James Williams and Joel Smeenge. Adding Michael Haynes and Jim Everett made the Saints considerably stronger at wide receiver and quarterback. Kick returner Tyrone Hughes and place-kicker Morten Andersen are two of the league's most dangerous scoring threats on special teams.

Weaknesses: The defensive line must reestablish itself, particularly at right end, where Frank Warren returns from foot surgery and rookie Joe Johnson is slotted. Depth in the offensive line could be a big problem, especially if a starter goes down. Hoby Brenner's retirement leaves a serious void in terms of run-blocking at tight end.

Key to success: Renaldo Turnbull must repeat his All-Pro season at right outside linebacker. The offense needs a full season from center Jeff Uhlenhake. Everett must revert to his 1988-92 form.

That's a fact: The last time the Saints, under Coach Jim Mora, finished 8-8 was in 1990. The next season they won their first NFC West title.

Coach Jim Mora says: "We're going to be a younger team. . . . I think it's time for us to move in that direction. My biggest concern right now is whether we can get back to playing the kind of defense that we were playing a couple of years ago. We faltered last year, especially against the run. And we've tried to address beefing up things a little bit inside, but it's going to have to be probably (done) with some younger players."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Haynes	Small	Mitchell
LT	Roaf	Ricketts	
LG	Dombrowski	Novitsky	
C	Uhlenhake	Garten	Novitsky
RG	Port	Novitsky	
RT	R. Cooper	Ricketts	Lundberg
TE	Smith	Walls	Wainright
WR	Early	E. Martin	McCleskey
QB	Everett	Wilson	Nussmeier
FB	Neal	Muster	Ned
TB	Bates	V. Dunbar	D. Brown

DEFENSE

LE	W. Martin	Mayfield	Carroll
NT	Miller	K. Dunbar	
RE	Warren	Goff	J. Johnson
LOLB	Jackson	Smeenge	Freeman
LILB	Mills	J. Williams	
RILB	V. Johnson	Tubbs	
ROLB	Turnbull	Smeenge	
LCB	Cook	Spencer	Hughes
RCB	Jones	Legette	Byrd
SS	Maxie	Lumpkin	Henderson
FS	V. Buck	Henderson	Lumpkin

SPECIALISTS

K	Andersen	KR	Hughes
P	Barnhardt	PR	Hughes

knee that sidelined him the entire '93 season, has looked sharp in spring workouts. Brown, Dunbar and Bates probably make veteran Dalton Hilliard expendable.

Dunbar and Brown both are similar runners—slashers. Bates is the most intriguing. When he slipped to the second round, the Saints were ecstatic. He is a potential home run threat with 4.4-second speed in the 40-yard dash packed on a 6-foot-1, 217-pound frame. He is two years removed from surgery on his left knee, but the 1,100 yards he rushed for last season as a junior at Arizona State proved he is fully recovered.

Lorenzo Neal and Brad Muster are a solid one-two punch at fullback, although Muster likely will have to agree to a salary reduction if he is to return. Neal was the Saints' leading rusher when he broke an ankle in the second game of last season.

RECEIVERS—Haynes is the first proven deep threat of the Mora regime. Haynes will be a perfect complement to Quinn Early, who is coming off a career year. Opposing defenses won't be able to double-team both of them.

Eric Martin, the Saints' all-time leading receiver, also should benefit from Haynes' presence. Martin is a perfect fit for the slot receiver. But can the Saints afford a $1.2 million salary for a No. 3 receiver? If not, will Martin agree to a pay cut?

Torrance Small has the inside track as the fourth receiver. But Mitchell, who was clocked at 4.38 seconds in the 40 by the Saints before the draft, could be hard to keep off the field because of his speed.

Irv Smith replaces the retired Hoby Brenner at tight end. Although Brenner's blocking will be sorely missed, Smith's athleticism and potential as a receiver could be an acceptable trade-off. Wesley Walls was signed away from San Francisco to push Frank Wainright for the No. 2 job.

LINEMEN—If healthy, Uhlenhake would seem to be an improvement over Joel Hilgenberg, who was not re-signed. Uhlenhake is bigger and stronger, but the question is whether he can play 16 games after enduring season-ending knee surgery each of the last two seasons.

Besides the addition of Uhlenhake and Matsko's change in run-blocking approach, the other major shakeup in the line involves flip-flopping tackles William Roaf and Richard Cooper. Roaf, an all-rookie selection last season, moves to the left side to protect Everett's back while Cooper, a physical blocker, slides to the right.

Losing Derek Kennard to the Cowboys opens a spot in the lineup for Jim Dombrowski at left guard as Chris Port slides over to fill Kennard's spot at right guard.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—With Wayne Martin having developed into one of the league's steadiest performers at left end, nose tackle and right end are the areas of critical concern.

If Warren is fully recovered from foot surgery and is re-signed as expected, then the right end position takes care of itself. Warren will be backed up and pushed by No. 1 pick Joe Johnson, the 13th player chosen in the draft.

Les Miller is a dependable nose tackle, but it's uncertain how he will stand up to the grind of playing 16 games as the starter. Karl Dunbar will likely back up Miller, although the Saints are high on free agent Corey Mayfield, who can play both inside and out.

LINEBACKERS—Renaldo Turnbull, coming off an All-Pro season at right outside linebacker, won't leave the field this year unless he is carried off. His ability to rush the passer (13 sacks last season), defend the run and drop back in pass coverage makes him a

Continued

1994 NEW ORLEANS SAINTS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
16	Buck, Mike	6-3/227	4-22-67	5	Maine	D6/90	4/1
17	Everett, Jim	6-5/212	1-3-63	9	Purdue	T-Ram/94	*10/9
13	Nussmeier, Doug	6-3/211	12-11-70	R	Idaho	D4/94	—
18	Wilson, Wade	6-3/206	2-1-59	14	East Texas State	FA/94	14/14
	RUNNING BACKS						
28	Bates, Mario	6-1/217	1-16-73	R	Arizona State	D2/94	—
24	Brown, Derek	5-9/186	4-15-71	2	Nebraska	D4/93	13/12
32	Dunbar, Vaughn	5-10/204	9-4-68	3	Indiana	D1/92	0/0
21	Hilliard, Dalton	5-8/204	1-21-64	9	Louisiana State	D2/86	16/0
22	Muster, Brad (FB)	6-4/235	4-11-65	7	Stanford	FA/93	13/11
23	Neal, Lorenzo (FB)	5-11/240	12-27-70	R	Fresno State	D4/93	—
36	Ned, Derrick (FB)	6-1/220	1-5-69	2	Grambling State	FA/92	14/1
34	Tillison, Ed (FB)	5-10/229	2-12-69	2	Northwest Missouri State	FA/94	0/0
	RECEIVERS						
80	Dowdell, Marcus	5-10/179	5-22-70	2	Tennessee State	D10/92	9/1
89	Early, Quinn	6-0/190	4-13-65	7	Iowa	PlanB/91	16/15
81	Haynes, Michael	6-1/184	12-24-65	7	Northern Arizona	FA/94	*16/16
84	Martin, Eric	6-1/207	11-8-61	10	Louisiana State	D7/85	16/13
11	Mitchell, Derrell (KR/PR)	5-9/190	9-16-71	R	Texas Tech	D6/94	—
83	Small, Torrance	6-3/201	9-6-70	3	Alcorn State	D5/92	11/0
82	Smith, Irv (TE)	6-3/246	10-13-71	2	Notre Dame	D1/93	16/8
48	Thomas, Franklin (TE)	6-3/262	4-22-68	1	Grambling State	FA/94	0/0
87	Wainright, Frank (TE)	6-3/245	10-10-67	4	Northern Colorado	D8/91	16/2
85	Walls, Wesley (TE)	6-5/250	2-26-66	6	Mississippi	FA/94	*6/0
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
71	Cooper, Richard (T)	6-5/290	11-1-64	5	Tennessee	FA/89	16/16
72	Dombrowski, Jim (G)	6-5/300	10-19-63	9	Virginia	D1/86	16/2
66	Garten, Joe (C)	6-2/290	8-13-68	2	Colorado	FA/94	0/0
61	Hilgenberg, Joel (C/G)	6-2/252	7-10-62	11	Iowa	D4/84	9/9
67	Lundberg, Lance (T)	6-4/308	8-15-70	R	Nebraska	D7/94	—
60	Novitsky, Craig (G/C)	6-5/295	5-12-71	R	UCLA	D5/94	—
70	Port, Chris (G)	6-5/295	11-2-67	4	Duke	D12/90	15/15
64	Ricketts, Tom (T)	6-5/305	11-21-65	5	Pittsburgh	FA/94	*3/0
77	Roaf, Willie (T)	6-4/300	4-18-70	2	Louisiana Tech	D1/93	16/16
62	Uhlenhake, Jeff (C)	6-3/284	1-28-66	6	Ohio State	FA/94	*5/5
65	Williams, Willie (T)	6-6/295	8-6-67	3	Louisiana State	FA/94	0/0
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
78	Backes, Tom (T)	6-4/273	3-19-68	1	Oklahoma	FA/93	0/0
74	Carroll, Herman (E)	6-4/265	6-20-71	R	Mississippi State	D5/94	—
95	Dixon, Ronnie (NT)	6-3/292	5-10-71	2	Cincinnati	D6/93	2/0
63	Dunbar, Karl (NT)	6-4/275	5-18-67	3	Louisiana State	FA/92	13/1
91	Goff, Robert (E)	6-3/270	10-2-65	7	Auburn	T-TB/90	16/9
94	Johnson, Joe (E)	6-4/285	7-11-72	R	Louisville	D1/94	—
93	Martin, Wayne (E)	6-5/275	10-26-65	6	Arkansas	D1/89	16/16
96	Mayfield, Corey (E)	6-3/290	2-25-70	2	Oklahoma	FA/94	0/0
58	Milburn, Darryl (E)	6-3/245	10-25-68	1	Grambling State	FA/94	0/0
69	Miller, Les (NT)	6-7/285	3-1-65	8	Fort Hays State (Kan.)	PlanB/91	13/11
73	Warren, Frank (E)	6-4/290	9-14-59	13	Auburn	D3/81	8/7
	LINEBACKERS						
55	Freeman, Reggie	6-1/233	5-8-70	2	Florida State	D2/93	10/0
57	Jackson, Rickey	6-2/243	3-20-58	14	Pittsburgh	D2/81	16/16
53	Johnson, Vaughan	6-3/240	3-24-62	9	North Carolina State	SupD1/84	15/13
51	Mills, Sam	5-9/225	6-3-59	9	Montclair (N.J.) State	FA/86	9/7
99	Smeenge, Joel	6-5/250	4-1-68	5	Western Michigan	D3/90	16/2
52	Stonebreaker, Mike	6-0/235	1-14-67	2	Notre Dame	FA/94	0/0
54	Tubbs, Winfred	6-4/250	9-24-70	R	Texas	D3/94	—
97	Turnbull, Renaldo	6-4/250	1-5-66	5	West Virginia	D1/90	15/14
90	Williams, James	6-0/230	10-10-68	5	Mississippi State	D6/90	16/9
92	Winston, DeMond	6-2/239	9-14-68	5	Vanderbilt	D4/90	16/0
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
26	Buck, Vince (S)	6-0/198	1-12-68	5	Central State (O.)	D2/90	16/16
41	Cook, Toi (CB)	5-11/188	12-3-64	8	Stanford	D8/87	16/16
20	Henderson, Othello (S)	6-0/192	8-23-72	2	UCLA	D7/93	5/1
33	Hughes, Tyrone (CB/KR/PR)	5-9/175	1-14-70	2	Nebraska	D5/93	16/0
27	Jones, Reginald (CB)	6-1/202	1-11-69	4	Memphis State	D5/91	12/2
43	Legette, Tyrone (CB)	5-9/177	2-15-70	3	Nebraska	D3/92	14/1
46	Lumpkin, Sean (S)	6-0/206	1-4-70	3	Minnesota	D4/92	12/0
39	Maxie, Brett (S)	6-2/194	1-13-62	10	Texas Southern	FA/85	1/1
37	Spencer, Jimmy (CB)	5-9/180	3-29-69	3	Florida	FA/92	16/3
	SPECIALISTS						
7	Andersen, Morten (K)	6-2/221	8-19-60	13	Michigan State	D4/82	16/0
6	Barnhardt, Tommy (P)	6-2/207	6-11-63	8	North Carolina	FA/89	16/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP

Andre Bowden, LB; Tim Brown, LB; Israel Byrd, CB; Mike Caldwell, WR; Matt Campbell, TE; George Coghill, S; Hunkie Cooper, WR; Ralph Dawkins, RB; Ernest Dixon, NT; Brandon Hamilton, CB; Jim Hanna, NT; Adam Henry, WR; Jerold Jeffcoat, DE; Tyrone Johnson, WR; Alan Kline, T; Kelvin Knight, S; Brad Lebo, QB; J.J. McCleskey, WR; Terry McDaniels, T; Royce Nelson, G; Thomas Orr, CB; Shane Pahukoa, S; Steve Rhem, WR; Barron Rollins, G; Tom Roth, G; Tyrone Thomas, WR; Sean Washington, CB; Ray Wilson, S; Jimmy Young, CB.

*Not with Saints in 1993.

Key to abbreviations on page 158.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: Jim Mora.

Assistant coaches: • Vic Fangio (outside linebackers) • Joe Marciano (tight ends/special teams) • John Matsko (offensive line) • Jim Mora Jr. (defensive secondary) • Chip Myers (offensive assistant) • Russell Paternostro (strength and conditioning) • John Pease (defensive line) • Steve Sidwell (defensive coordinator/inside linebackers) • Jim Skipper (running backs) • Carl Smith (offensive coordinator/quarterbacks) • Steve Walters (receivers) • Everett Withers (defensive assistant).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 8-8 (2nd in NFC West); 3-3 in division; 6-6 in conference; 4-4 at home; 4-4 on road.
1993 playoff record: None.
Mora's regular-season record: 77-50 in eight seasons with Saints.
Mora's postseason record: 0-4 in four playoffs with Saints.
Team record last five years: 48-32 (.600, ranks T7th in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	10	21
Rushing offense	7	14
Passing offense	9	21
Scoring offense	5	11
Total defense	6	7
Rushing defense	13	25
Passing defense	1	1
Scoring defense	10	22
Takeaways	T6	T14
Giveaways	T10	T18
Turnover differential	10	20
Sacks	1	2
Sacks allowed	T8	T16

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Joe Johnson	DE	Louisville
2nd	Mario Bates	TB	Arizona State
3rd	Winfred Tubbs	LB	Texas
4th	Doug Nussmeier	QB	Idaho
5th	Herman Carroll	DE	Mississippi State
5th	Craig Novitsky	G/C	UCLA
6th	Derrell Mitchell	WR	Texas Tech
7th	Lance Lundberg	T	Nebraska

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	4	KANSAS CITY	12:00
Sept.	11	WASHINGTON	3:00
Sept.	18	at Tampa Bay	1:00
Sept.	25	at San Francisco	1:00
Oct.	2	N.Y. GIANTS	3:00
Oct.	9	at Chicago	12:00
Oct.	16	SAN DIEGO	3:00
Oct.	23	L.A. RAMS	12:00
Oct.	30	Open date	
Nov.	6	at Minnesota	12:00
Nov.	13	ATLANTA	12:00
Nov.	20	at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Nov.	28	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	8:00
Dec.	4	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Dec.	11	at Atlanta	8:00
Dec.	19	DALLAS (Mon.)	8:00
Dec.	24	at Denver (Sat.)	2:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	HOUSTON	W	33-21
Sept.	12	at Atlanta	W	34-31
Sept.	19	DETROIT	W	14-3
Sept.	26	SAN FRANCISCO	W	16-13
Oct.	3	at L.A. Rams	W	37-6
Oct.	10	Open date		
Oct.	17	at Pittsburgh	L	14-37
Oct.	24	ATLANTA	L	15-26
Oct.	31	at Phoenix	W	20-17
Nov.	7	Open date		
Nov.	14	GREEN BAY	L	17-19
Nov.	22	at San Francisco	L	7-42
Nov.	28	at Minnesota	W	17-14
Dec.	5	at Cleveland	L	13-17
Dec.	12	L.A. RAMS	L	20-23
Dec.	20	N.Y. GIANTS	L	14-24
Dec.	26	at Philadelphia	L	26-37
Jan.	2	CINCINNATI	W	20-13

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Louisiana Superdome (69,065, artificial) • Ticket information: 504-522-2600 • Flagship radio station: WQUE • Training site: University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, Wis.; 504-733-0255.

RICHARD GENTILE

New Orleans hopes Vaughn Dunbar is recovered from a right knee injury.

special player.

Mills and Jackson, who have 10 Pro Bowl appearances between them, must be re-signed. But inside linebacker James Williams and outside linebacker Joel Smeenge are ready to move up as starters if either Mills or Jackson signs elsewhere. Smeenge's emergence will likely make Jackson a part-time player regardless.

There also is no drop-off at the other inside linebacker position, where Vaughan Johnson was denied a fifth Pro Bowl appearance despite posting the tackles to merit selection. Third-round pick Winfred Tubbs from Texas is another player for the future at either inside or outside linebacker. Reggie Freeman, a second-round pick in 1993, needs another year of seasoning.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—Standout free safety Gene Atkins was lost to Miami through free agency. His departure, Maxie's rehabilitation status and the uncertainty about re-signing cornerback Toi Cook mean the secondary faces some major reshuffling.

Vince Buck should adequately replace Atkins' athleticism at free safety. Moving Buck opens up a cornerback spot for either Reginald Jones or Jimmy Spencer. Jones, the team's best coverage man before losing his starting job at right cornerback last season, is the likely choice. But Spencer could earn a starting role if Cook finds a better offer elsewhere.

Maxie is a master at directing traffic in the secondary and is being counted on to return, but he too is unsigned. Sean Lumpkin and Othello Henderson will push for playing time at both safety positions.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Morten Andersen seems to get better with age. He enters his 13th season after scoring more than 100 points for the eighth time in the last nine years.

Tommy Barnhardt had 26 punts downed inside the 20-yard line, the fourth-highest total in the NFL. But his 43.6-yard average was more than a yard longer than the three punters with more kicks downed inside the 20.

Tyrone Hughes was a rookie find as a punt and kick returner. He returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns, led the NFL in punt-return average (13.6 yards), finished second in kickoff returns (25.1 average) and earned Pro Bowl honors. ◆

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Morten Andersen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	11	1	33	—	—
Derek Brown	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Mike Buck	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Marcus Dowdell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Quinn Early	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Jim Everett	2	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Michael Haynes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dalton Hilliard	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Tyrone Hughes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Eric Martin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Sam Mills	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brad Muster	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Lorenzo Neal	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derrick Ned	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Torrance Small	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Irv Smith	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Frank Warren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Wade Wilson	1	10	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Defense to determine if 49ers will be Super again

By IRA MILLER
San Francisco Chronicle

Three times in the last four years, the 49ers have reached the NFC championship game only to lose to the eventual Super Bowl winner. That would be considered a success in some places, but not in San Francisco.

A mediocre defense has kept the 49ers out of the last four Super Bowls, and it was defense that got most of the attention in the off-season. Former 49ers secondary coach Ray Rhodes returned from Green Bay to be the new coordinator and three new position coaches were hired.

Linebacking received heavy scrutiny because the 49ers expect their linebackers to be active against the run. Last year, San Francisco ranked last in the league in average yards allowed per rush. Two starters, Bill Romanowski and Keith DeLong, were traded and released, respectively, and Ken Norton and Gary Plummer were signed as free agents.

Most of the off-season, however, was spent not revamping any particular area but working on the salary cap. The 49ers were caught in a bad spot with the cap because they had a high payroll and were not a particularly old team, which necessitated a lot of difficult roster and salary trimming.

One result is that the 49ers, perhaps more than most teams, must worry about their depth. They are used to having experienced, well-paid backups, and now they have none. So Coach George Seifert is paying a lot more attention to the conditioning and durability of his players than he did in the past. Plummer, for example, hasn't missed a game since 1987 and Norton played most of last year with a torn biceps muscle.

In one area, however, the 49ers believe the National Football League's changing ways will help them. They've always stressed light practices with little hitting to keep their players fresh and healthy. With players' health taking on added significance in the salary-cap era, they're already ahead of the game in that respect.

GREG TROTT

Ricky Watters has played in two straight Pro Bowls and given the 49ers more than they expected.

COACHING

Although Rhodes isn't a graduate of the Buddy Ryan school of defense, look for the 49ers to be more aggressive and take more chances than they have in recent years. New secondary coach Tom Holmoe is a student of the game who carved out his NFL career with his intelligence, not his athletic ability.

The changes on offense are less significant. Former Bronco backup Gary Kubiak was hired as quarterbacks coach to relieve offensive coordinator Mike Shanahan of some responsibility, and Larry Kirksey is the new receivers coach. Those hires will give Shanahan more time to devote to his coordinator's duties, where he has been effective in expanding the 49ers' offense. Seifert, who doesn't even wear a headset on game days, gives his assistants wide latitude.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS—People talk about Steve Young's athletic ability and his quickness, but what really makes him effective is his toughness and strength, traits rarely associated with quarterbacks. Toughness is the reason he has started 33 consecutive games—the longest current streak in the NFL—and strength is the reason he can avoid the rush and get off passes that others might not.

With Young at quarterback, the 49ers have developed much more of a big-play offense than generally realized. He has been the league's highest-rated passer in each of the last three seasons, and he also has led the NFL in average yards per attempt each of those years. Over the last three years,

Continued

AT A GLANCE

Strengths: A terrific and varied offense features the best pair of wide receivers on any team in the NFL. Eight offensive starters have Pro Bowl experience, and almost all of them are still in the prime of their careers. The 49ers usually can score enough points to overcome any problems with their defense, and they almost always move the ball.

Weaknesses: The lack of an outside pass rush puts a lot of extra pressure on a secondary that already has a hole to fill. Although they have improved their defensive personnel, the 49ers still have to prove it on the field, especially against the run. A lack of depth in all areas could be significant.

Keys to success: More than ever, the 49ers have to keep the key elements of their passing game (Jerry Rice and Steve Young) healthy. There are no experienced replacements for either man. The defense must make some big plays.

That's a fact: The 49ers have won at least 10 games in a season for 11 years in a row, a feat no other team in NFL history has accomplished.

Coach George Seifert says: "Everything's got to be looked at differently now. The way we've operated the last 15 years, those days are over. Remember when we used to be able to back up guys with experienced backups? Now, the durability of the player is every bit a factor as his athletic ability, and the way people practice. All those things are going to have to be thought about in a little different vein."

PROBABLE DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Rice	Beach	Fleming
LT	Wallace	Millen	Bollinger
LG	Boatswain	Deese	Dalman
C	Sapolu	Dalman	
RG	Tamm	Dalman	Bollinger
RT	Barton	Millen	Boatswain
TE	Jones	Popson	
WR	Taylor	Singleton	Beach
QB	S. Young	Grbac	Musgrave
RB	Watters	Carter	Logan
FB	Logan	Floyd	Walker

DEFENSE

LE	Brown	K. Wilson	Bryant
LT	Stubblefield	Smith	Thomas
RT	B. Young	Smith	Thomas
RE	T. Wilson	Smith	Kelly
LLB	Johnson	Peterson	Preston
MLB	Plummer	Mitchell	
RLB	Norton	Mitchell	Peterson
LCB	Davis	Drakeford	Barnes
RCB	Hanks	Drakeford	Hardy
FS	Hall	Hanks	Russell
SS	McDonald	Russell	Woodall

SPECIALISTS

K	Brien	KR	Carter
P	Wilmsmeyer	PR	Carter

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS DATA

COACHES

Head coach: George Seifert.
Assistant coaches: • Jerry Attaway (physical development, strength and conditioning coordinator) • Dwaine Board (defensive line) • Tom Holmoe (defensive backs) • Carl Jackson (running backs) • Larry Kirksey (receivers) • Gary Kubiak (quarterbacks) • Alan Lowry (special teams) • John Marshall (linebackers) • Bobb McKittrick (offensive line) • Bill McPherson (assistant head coach) • Ray Rhodes (defensive coordinator) • Mike Shanahan (offensive coordinator) • Mike Solari (tight ends/offensive line assistant).

RECORDS/RANKINGS

1993 regular-season record: 10-6 (1st in NFC West); 4-2 in division; 8-4 in conference; 6-2 at home; 4-4 on road.
1993 playoff record: Defeated Giants, 44-3, in NFC divisional playoff game; lost to Cowboys, 38-21, in NFC championship game.
Seifert's regular-season record: 62-18 in five seasons with 49ers.
Seifert's postseason record: 6-3 in four playoffs with 49ers (1-0 in Super Bowl).
Team record last five years: 62-18 (.775, ranks 1st in league in that span).

1993 Team Rankings	NFC	NFL
Total offense	1	1
Rushing offense	3	3
Passing offense	1	2
Scoring offense	1	1
Total defense	8	15
Rushing defense	7	16
Passing defense	9	16
Scoring defense	8	16
Takeaways	T6	T14
Giveaways	T4	T11
Turnover differential	T6	T14
Sacks	5	9
Sacks allowed	T5	T11

1994 DRAFT CHOICES

Rd.	Name	Pos.	School
1st	Bryant Young	DT	Notre Dame
1st	William Floyd	FB	Florida State
2nd	Kevin Mitchell	LB	Syracuse
2nd	Tyronne Drakeford	CB	Virginia Tech
3rd	Doug Brien	K	California
3rd	Cory Fleming	WR	Tennessee
5th	Tony Peterson	LB	Notre Dame
6th	Lee Woodall	S	West Chester (Pa.)

1994 SCHEDULE

Sept.	5	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	6:00
Sept.	11	at Kansas City	12:00
Sept.	18	at L.A. Rams	1:00
Sept.	25	NEW ORLEANS	1:00
Oct.	2	PHILADELPHIA	1:00
Oct.	9	at Detroit	1:00
Oct.	16	at Atlanta	1:00
Oct.	23	TAMPA BAY	1:00
Oct.	30	Open date	
Nov.	6	at Washington	1:00
Nov.	13	DALLAS	1:00
Nov.	20	L.A. RAMS	5:00
Nov.	28	at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:00
Dec.	4	ATLANTA	1:00
Dec.	11	at San Diego	1:00
Dec.	17	DENVER (Sat.)	1:00
Dec.	26	at Minnesota (Mon.)	8:00

1993 RESULTS

Sept.	5	at Pittsburgh	W	24-13
Sept.	13	at Cleveland	L	13-23
Sept.	19	ATLANTA	W	37-30
Sept.	26	at New Orleans	L	13-16
Oct.	3	MINNESOTA	W	38-19
Oct.	10	Open date		
Oct.	17	at Dallas	L	17-26
Oct.	24	PHOENIX	W	28-14
Oct.	31	L.A. RAMS	W	40-17
Nov.	7	Open date		
Nov.	14	at Tampa Bay	W	45-21
Nov.	22	NEW ORLEANS	W	42-7
Nov.	28	at L.A. Rams	W	35-10
Dec.	5	CINCINNATI	W	21-8
Dec.	11	at Atlanta	L	24-27
Dec.	19	at Detroit	W	55-17
Dec.	25	HOUSTON	L	7-10
Jan.	3	PHILADELPHIA (OT)	L	34-37

MISCELLANEOUS DATA

• Stadium (capacity, surface): Candlestick Park (68,491, grass) • Ticket information: 415-468-2249 • Flagship radio station: KGO, 810 AM • Training site: Sierra Community College, Rocklin, Calif.; 916-624-8241.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the 49ers have played three games in the last two years in which they did not punt at all? In 1993, the 49ers punted only 42 times, 14 times fewer than any other team in the league.

1993 FANTASY STATISTICS

	PASSING				RUSHING				RECEIVING				KICK SCORING					
Name	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	300-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	1-9 yd. TDs	10-39 yd. TDs	40+ yd. TDs	100-yd. games	17-39 yd. FGs	40-49 yd. FGs	50+ yd. FGs	PATs	Other TDs*	Total TDs
Sanjay Beach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dexter Carter	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Eric Davis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Merton Hanks	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brent Jones	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Marc Logan	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Jerry Rice	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	6	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	16
Nate Singleton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ralph Tamm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
John Taylor	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
Ricky Watters	—	—	—	—	8	2	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Steve Young	11	13	5	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31

*Includes returns of punts, kickoffs, fumbles, interceptions, blocked punts and blocked field goals.

Young's average per attempt is 8.75 yards, a figure Joe Montana exceeded only once in his 13 seasons with the 49ers. Young also is adept at spreading the ball around; last year, the 49ers had five players with more than 30 receptions and nine players with at least one touchdown catch. And Young is still a potent running threat.

The 49ers, however, worry about Young's sometimes reckless running, and with no experienced backup on the roster, his health becomes even more important. Young was forced to stay in the lineup despite having an injured thumb on his passing hand early last season. The other quarterbacks on the roster have thrown a total of five NFL passes.

RUNNING BACKS—Ricky Watters has played in two straight Pro Bowls and given the 49ers more than they ever expected. His quickness is something San Francisco's offense hadn't had for several years before he arrived, and it forces defenses to play the run more, which, of course, opens up the passing game. With Watters, the 49ers run more quick-hitting plays inside and fewer sweeps than in the past.

Watters, however, hasn't made it through an NFL season without getting hurt in three tries, and he also fumbles a bit too much. Last year, only Atlanta's Erric Pegram, who carried the ball 84 more times, had more fumbles among NFC running backs.

Although Marc Logan was very effective when he subbed for the injured Tom Rathman at fullback last year, the 49ers plan to work rookie William Floyd into the lineup primarily because of his strong blocking skills. The 242-pound Floyd was underused

KEVIN REECE

Jerry Rice figures to become the NFL's all-time leader in touchdowns this season.

at Florida State but is seen by the 49ers as a good outlet receiver and an occasional runner. Logan, whose versatility is prized in the salary-cap era, is likely to wind up as a swingman who will split time at running back and fullback.

RECEIVERS—What's left to be said about Jerry Rice? He catches long, short, inside, outside, and is still dangerous after the catch. With his third touchdown this season, he'll pass Jim Brown to become the NFL's all-time leader in that department.

On almost any other team, John Taylor would be a big-time star. In San Francisco, he plays second fiddle to Rice. Still, his value to this team is great, as was dramatically shown last year when he completed his comeback from the broken leg suffered in 1992. Early in the season, with Taylor seemingly slowed, opposing defenses concentrated more on Rice and hurt the offense. Once it became obvious that Taylor was fully healthy and defenses had to spread their attention, the 49ers went on a tear, scoring at least 40 points in three straight games, a feat that hadn't been accomplished in the NFL in more than 10 years.

Tight end Brent Jones caught a career-high 68 passes last year, and the threat he creates deep down the middle limits what the defense can do against Rice and Taylor on the outside.

The loss of Rice, Taylor or Jones would be a severe blow since the 49ers have no one behind them with any experience. In fact, Jones at times will be used as a third wideout (as will Dexter Carter) simply because of the lack of experienced depth.

Jamie Williams, one of the best blocking tight ends in the league, signed with the Raiders as a free agent.

LINEMEN—The 49ers' offensive lines always have been smaller than those of most top teams. Still, they believe their 1994 line will be the best they've ever had.

That confidence stems mostly from the presence of tackles Steve Wallace and Harris Barton. Both are strong enough to be excellent pass blockers and nimble enough to be effective when pulling to block for the running game. Barton, who also has played center and guard, is particularly versatile. Both Wallace and Barton have played in the Pro Bowl, as has center Jesse Sapolu.

The guards, however, are not on par with the other linemen, and that could be a problem. Right guard Ralph Tamm is a journeyman who inherited a starting job when Roy Foster suffered a probable career-ending injury that sidelined him almost the entire '93 season. Left guard Guy McIntyre has played in five straight Pro Bowls but was not expected to return as a free agent, leaving that position in the hands of Harry Boatswain, a backup tackle the last couple of years. Boatswain would be the team's biggest guard in years and figures to be a capable inside blocker, but the 49ers may miss McIntyre's ability to pull out and lead on sweeps.

Nonetheless, since the 49ers are a passing team, the line figures to remain a strength as long as the tackles are healthy.

DEFENSE

LINEMEN—No area has undergone a greater transition the last couple of years than this one. Seifert likes to hoard defensive linemen, but in the last few years the 49ers have lost almost all of their veteran experience and now they're looking for new leadership.

Tackle Dana Stubblefield, a first-round draft choice last year, led the team in sacks and improved dramatically against the run as the season wore on. Stubblefield occasionally took the wrong hole early in the season and got beat on long runs. By the end of the season, that wasn't happening.

Stubblefield will be teamed with Bryant Young, one of the 49ers' two first-round draft picks. Young is a little smaller than Stubblefield, but he's quick and active, similar to former 49er Pierce Holt. Stubblefield and Young are being counted on to end the defense's disturbing trend of giving up a lot of rushing yards through the middle.

Left end Dennis Brown looks poised to shed his underachiever tag and become a major star. Dogged by weight problems his whole career, Brown went on a major conditioning program in the off-season and is expected to play at less than 300 pounds. That's a major turnaround for a player who once had a bonus clause in his contract that paid him for reporting at fewer than 310 pounds.

The 49ers hoped to clear up a major problem at right end by signing former Bears standout Richard Dent to a contract during the off-season. Last season's starter, Kevin Fagan, had his career cut short by knee problems, and the coaches had been hoping that one of two 1993 rookies, Troy Wilson or Artie

Continued

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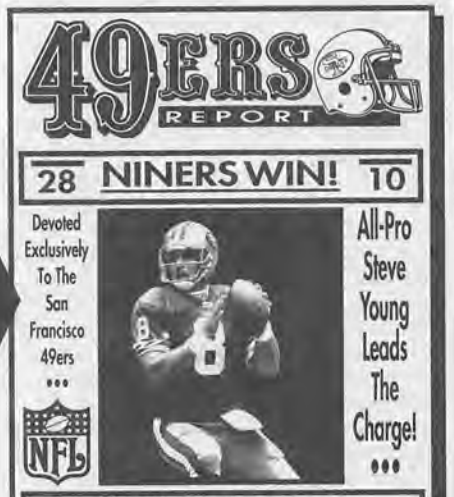

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FOTOSPORTS INTERNATIONAL

Dennis Brown looks poised to shed his underachiever tag and become a major star.

1994 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS ROSTER

No.		Ht./Wt.	Born	NFL exp.	College	How acq.	'93 GP/GS
	QUARTERBACKS						
15	Bridewell, Jeff	6-5/220	5-13-67	1	UC Davis	FA/94	0/0
18	Grbac, Elvis	6-5/232	8-13-70	2	Michigan	D8/93	0/0
14	Musgrave, Bill	6-2/205	11-11-67	4	Oregon	FA/91	1/0
8	Young, Steve	6-2/205	10-11-61	10	Brigham Young	T-TB/87	16/16
	RUNNING BACKS						
35	Carter, Dexter (KR/PR)	5-9/174	9-15-67	5	Florida State	D1/90	16/0
40	Floyd, William (FB)	6-1/242	2-17-72	R	Florida State	D1/94	—
20	Ivlow, John (FB)	5-11/226	1-26-70	2	Colorado State	FA/94	*2/0
43	Logan, Marc (FB)	6-0/212	5-9-65	7	Kentucky	PlanB/92	14/12
27	Walker, Adam (FB/KR)	6-1/210	6-7-68	2	Pittsburgh	FA/94	10/0
32	Watters, Ricky	6-1/212	4-7-69	4	Notre Dame	D2/91	13/13
	RECEIVERS						
83	Beach, Sanjay	6-1/194	2-21-66	4	Colorado State	FA/94	9/0
89	Fleming, Cory	6-1/207	3-19-71	R	Tennessee	D3/94	—
84	Jones, Brent (TE)	6-4/230	2-12-63	8	Santa Clara	FA/87	16/16
81	Owens, Darrick	6-2/216	11-5-70	1	Mississippi	FA/94	0/0
85	Popson, Ted (TE)	6-4/250	9-10-66	1	Portland State	FA/93	0/0
80	Rice, Jerry	6-2/200	10-13-62	10	Mississippi Valley State	D1/85	16/16
88	Singleton, Nate	5-11/190	7-5-68	3	Grambling State	FA/93	16/0
82	Taylor, John	6-1/185	3-31-62	9	Delaware State	D3/86	16/16
	OFFENSIVE LINEMEN						
79	Barton, Harris (T)	6-4/286	4-19-64	8	North Carolina	D1/87	15/15
65	Boatswain, Harry (G/T)	6-4/295	6-26-69	4	New Haven (Conn.)	D5/91	16/2
71	Bollinger, Brian (T/G)	6-5/285	11-21-68	3	North Carolina	D3/92	16/0
50	Dalman, Chris (G/C)	6-3/285	3-15-70	2	Stanford	D6/93	15/0
76	Millen, Alec (T)	6-7/285	9-25-70	1	Georgia	D7/93	0/0
	Pollack, Frank (G/T)	6-5/285	11-5-67	5	Northern Arizona	FA/94	0/0
61	Sapolu, Jesse (C)	6-4/278	3-10-61	12	Hawaii	D11/83	16/16
64	Tamm, Ralph (G)	6-4/280	3-11-66	7	West Chester (Pa.)	FA/92	16/16
74	Wallace, Steve (T)	6-5/280	12-27-64	9	Auburn	D4/86	15/15
	DEFENSIVE LINEMEN						
96	Brown, Dennis (E)	6-4/290	11-6-67	5	Washington	D2/90	16/16
58	Kelly, Todd (E)	6-2/259	11-27-70	2	Tennessee	D1/93	14/5
95	Smith, Artie (T/E)	6-4/303	5-15-70	2	Louisiana Tech	D5/93	16/6
94	Stubblefield, Dana (T)	6-2/302	11-14-70	2	Kansas	D1/93	16/14
72	Thomas, Mark (T)	6-5/273	5-6-69	3	North Carolina State	D4/92	11/1
77	Wilson, Karl (E)	6-5/277	9-10-64	7	Louisiana State	FA/93	*12/2
92	Wilson, Troy (E)	6-4/235	11-22-70	2	Pittsburg (Kan.) State	D7/93	10/0
97	Young, Bryant (T)	6-2/276	1-27-72	R	Notre Dame	D1/94	—
	LINEBACKERS						
55	Johnson, John	6-3/230	5-8-68	4	Clemson	D2/91	15/12
54	Mitchell, Kevin	6-1/260	1-1-71	R	Syracuse	D2/94	—
51	Norton, Ken	6-2/241	9-29-66	7	UCLA	FA/94	*16/16
53	Peterson, Tony	6-0/223	1-23-72	R	Notre Dame	D5/94	—
50	Plummer, Gary	6-2/247	1-26-60	9	California	FA/94	*16/15
	DEFENSIVE BACKS						
25	Davis, Eric (CB)	5-11/178	1-26-68	5	Jacksonville (Ala.) State.	D2/90	16/16
24	Drakeford, Tyronne (CB/PR)	5-9/185	6-21-71	R	Virginia Tech	D2/94	—
28	Hall, Dana (S)	6-2/206	7-8-69	3	Washington	D1/92	13/7
36	Hanks, Merton (CB/S)	6-2/185	3-12-68	4	Iowa	D5/91	16/14
45	Hardy, Adrian (CB)	5-11/194	8-16-70	2	Northwestern (La.) State	D2/93	10/0
46	McDonald, Tim (S)	6-2/215	1-6-65	8	Southern California	FA/93	16/16
38	Russell, Damien (S)	6-1/204	8-20-70	3	Virginia Tech	D6/92	16/0
41	Woodall, Lee (S)	6-0/220	10-31-69	R	West Chester (Pa.)	D6/94	—
	SPECIALISTS						
4	Brien, Doug (K)	5-11/177	11-24-70	R	California	D3/94	—
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus (P)	6-1/210	12-4-67	3	Louisville	FA/92	15/0

OTHER FREE AGENTS IN CAMP
Tomur Barnes, CB; Alonzo Browning, WR; Junior Bryant, DE; Bryce Burnett, TE; Brett Carolan, TE; Ron Collins, G; Derrick Deese, G; Jamal Fountaine, DE; Jay Hillman, FB; Anthony Jefferson, CB; Jackie Kellogg, CB; Rod Moore, WR; Garry Pay, C; P.J. Preston, LB; Eddie Taylor, CB; Tom Thompson, P; Alan Young, DE.
*Not with 49ers in 1993.
Key to abbreviations on page 158.

Smith, could start this year. But if the 49ers can sign Dent, who has 124½ sacks in 11 pro seasons, they will rest a bit more easy this season.

LINEBACKERS—This area figures to go from being a weakness to a strength, thanks to the addition of Norton and Plummer, each of whom will play an inside-linebacker position, even when the 49ers use the 4-3 (in the 49ers' variation of the 4-3, there are two inside linebackers and one outside). Plummer's role will be that of an old-style middle linebacker, taking on the guards and stuffing the inside running plays so that Norton can pursue the ballcarrier. Norton, Dallas' leading tackler the last two years, probably will be the only linebacker in the nickel defense.

John Johnson, a first-time starter last season, will be the usual outside linebacker, generally playing on the weakside away from the tight end. Johnson is fast and athletic and a threat to make plays when he gets a running start, but he has some difficulty shedding blocks.

The 49ers still think Todd Kelly, who was a starter early in his rookie season before being benched for poor play, will develop, but they're likely to use Wilson a lot at both end and linebacker.

DEFENSIVE BACKS—The 49ers will go to training camp still trying to settle on their alignment, but three starters and two positions are set: Tim McDonald at strong safety, Eric Davis at left cornerback and Merton Hanks at either free safety or right cornerback.

McDonald is a force who was used poorly by the 49ers last year. This season, look for them to move him closer to the line of scrimmage to get him involved in more plays. Despite the way he used last season, McDonald still made 91 tackles and was the only 49er defender to make the Pro Bowl.

Davis is a great effort guy, but his size limits what he can do. Hanks emerged as a playmaker last season at safety after playing cornerback earlier in his career.

The loss of starting right corner Don Griffin to free agency has the 49ers considering a move of Hanks to that spot (he has played there before), with Dana Hall reclaiming his old job at free safety. That's the scenario Seifert envisions, but Adrian Hardy and Tyronne Drakeford could change that. If either of them shows enough to warrant a starting job, Hanks would remain at free safety. That would be the 49ers' strongest alignment, since Hanks is much better at safety than at corner and he has shown much better instincts there than Hall has. Hall, a No. 1 draft pick two years ago, is even in danger of losing his roster spot, but his guaranteed contract makes it difficult for the 49ers to trade him.

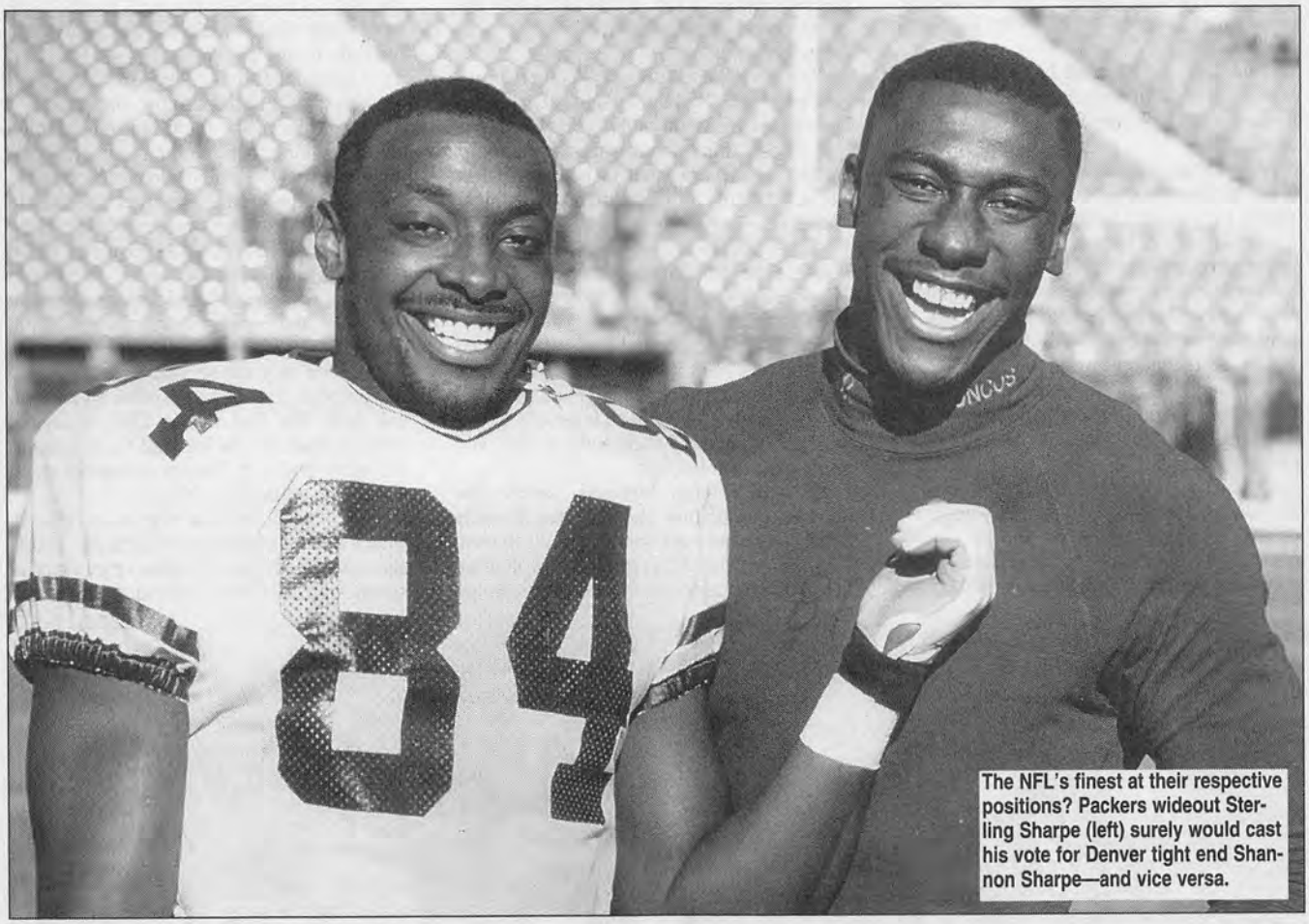
SPECIAL TEAMS

The 49ers won't have Mike Cofer to kick around anymore. Their new place-kicker is Doug Brien, a third-round pick and the only pure place-kicker drafted by any NFL team this year. Brien is known for his accuracy, and that's more important than leg strength to the 49ers, whose offense moves the ball into field-goal range so often.

Punter Klaus Wilmsmeyer usually does an excellent job of placing his kicks, especially those he launches from around midfield.

Dexter Carter, who re-signed with the 49ers as a free agent after talking for two years about how much he wanted to go to another team, has ranked among the league leaders in kickoff returns or punt returns in his four-year career. Now all he has to do is hang onto the ball; last year, Carter handled the ball only 79 times on returns, fair catches, runs from scrimmage and pass receptions and fumbled five times. ◆

MY BROTHER THE ALL-PRO



The NFL's finest at their respective positions? Packers wideout Sterling Sharpe (left) surely would cast his vote for Denver tight end Shannon Sharpe—and vice versa.

TONY TOMSIC/NFL PHOTOS

Rare will to win, cultivated on the farm, helps Sharpe receiving duo reap success

By TOM KENSLER
Denver Post

As youths, the energetic Sharpe brothers couldn't just hop over to the local YMCA or Boys Club to let off some steam. The rural, southeast Georgia town of Glennville was lucky to have a few park benches.

But Sterling Sharpe, now a star receiver for the Green Bay Packers, and Shannon Sharpe, the tight end for the Denver Broncos, could and would make do.

They raced to take out the trash. They competed to see who could mow the lawn the fastest. And to let off more steam, they tried to win the Putback World Championship.

Of course, the brothers were somewhat isolated on a farm and didn't know anybody else who played putback, so one of them was sure to become world champion. That minor detail did nothing to lessen their enthusiasm for a game they had made up. This was important stuff.

In putback, players take turns punting, throwing or kicking a football toward each other, trying to get the ball over the opponent's head, if possible. The object is to back up your opponent past a line or "end zone." Catch the ball on the fly, and you can move up five steps before sending it back.

Now, picture the game in fast-forward. That's how the Sharpe boys played.

Always.

"It got pretty heated," Shannon said. "He was three years older, so it was tough. I wanted to show him that I wasn't his 'baby' brother.

continued

MY BROTHER THE ALL-PRO

"But he would never let me win. He would always beat me, and that was a big thing. I didn't realize that since he was that much older, he was supposed to be that much better than I was. I just looked up and thought since he was my brother, I should be able to beat him."

That determined will to win in any arena—even on a hot summer day in a barren, Georgia field with nothing more on the line than bragging rights—would serve both well in the future.

And National Football League defensive backs can attest that moving around farm implements did wonders for the Sharpe boys' biceps, too.

When Shannon joined Sterling on the first team of the Associated Press' 1993 All-Pro squad, they made history. Never before had a pair of brothers been selected as receivers in the same season.

Sterling, who broke his own NFL single-season record last year with 112 catches, is becoming a perennial All-Pro. Shannon, whose 81 receptions were the most by an NFL tight end in '93, has beaten long odds after earning his first All-Pro honor.

The contrasts between the brothers don't end there.

• Sterling attended South Carolina, a prominent Division I-A school where he earned All-America mention and set Gamecock career standards for receptions (169), receiving yards (2,497) and touchdown receptions (17). Shannon caught 192 passes for 3,744 yards and 40 touchdowns and also earned All-America acclaim as a collegian. But he played at Savannah (Ga.) State, an NCAA Division II school.

• Sterling was the seventh overall pick of the 1988 NFL draft; Shannon was the 192nd choice in the 1990 draft.

• Sterling is reluctant to talk to the media; Shannon is not.

It can be said that both, however, came out of nowhere.

Glennville, a town with fewer than 5,000 residents, sits about 50 miles southwest of Savannah. And the farmhouse where the Sharpe boys grew up was several miles outside Glennville. In fact, it was half a mile and an afternoon of putback kicks to their nearest neighbor.

"We were Route 1, Box 4, so that tells you how rural it is," Shannon said. "That didn't bother me. It gave me and my brother a lot of free time to think about what we wanted to do and what we wanted to become. There weren't a whole lot of distractions or things to do."

Except, that is, for the chores. Mary Porter, their grandmother, gave the orders. They would obey. She was their role model. She was the boss.

Sterling, Shannon and their older sister, Sherra, were born in Chicago. But their parents, having difficulty making ends meet and fearing for their safety in an inner-city neighborhood, soon sent their kids to live with grandparents in Georgia.

It wasn't long, however, before the Sharpes' grandfather died. He was the only father figure the boys had ever really known. The Sharpe boys didn't get to know their father until just before he died of cancer, when Shannon was in eighth grade.

"Basically, we were reared by women—our grandmother, who was the disciplinarian, and our sister," Shannon said. "Whether you have one parent or two parents, whether it's your mother or father or grandmother, it really doesn't make a difference. When you reach a certain age, you're going to do what you want to do.

"I can remember when I left to go to college, my grandmother never told me not to drink. She never told me not to smoke, or to not stay out late, or to not skip class. She never told me that, because she had spent 18 years of her life teaching me right from wrong. One speech wasn't going to make me. She felt like she had taught me the right things and that I'd have the discipline to do the right things.

"I graduated from college in 4½ years. I think that's a testament to the discipline."

On the farm, the family raised anything and everything, but grandma's job at a nursing home was the main source of income.

The Sharpe brothers' mother still lives in Chicago and attended the game between the Packers and Broncos last October 10 in Green Bay. She wore a jacket with Green Bay colors on one side and Denver colors on the other and remained true blue to both. That 1993 encounter, won by Green Bay, 30-27, marked only the second time the brothers had played against each other on the football field. The first was in 1990, when the Broncos beat the Packers, 22-13, in Denver. A rookie that year, Shannon was relegated mostly to special-teams duty.

"You could say that she wanted to do what's best by sending us to Georgia, or that she didn't really have the time or patience to spend with her kids," Shannon said. "But

TOM DIPACE

BOB ROSATO

Sterling Sharpe (right), who had a record 112 receptions in '93, prefers to mix it up with opponents, not the media. Shannon is more out in the open.

anyway you look at it, it turned out good for us.

"She didn't want us to be in an environment with guns and drugs and all that stuff. Where we lived in Georgia, there was no crime. There's two of us in the NFL and neither one of us has been in trouble. I think it turned out for the best."

Additionally, the Sharpes were blessed with good bloodlines. Their mother played high school basketball, and two uncles on their father's side were sprinters.

"People told me that if Sterling and those two uncles would have raced in their prime, Sterling would have finished last," Shannon said. "They tell us we were nothing compared to our uncles.

"I have to give a lot of credit to genetics. As they say, generally if you follow a horse home, he has horses for parents."

The Sharpe brothers certainly look like farm boys. Sterling is 6-foot-1 and 210 pounds of strength and grace, possessing lightning speed. Shannon, who goes 6-2 and 230, plays like a bulldozer and can't break 4.6 in the 40-yard dash.

Their coach at Glennville High School, William Hall, insists that Shannon, who once scored 52 points in a high school basketball game, was the better athlete of the two. At least, he was the more natural athlete.

"Things always came easy to Shannon," Hall said. "Sterling had to work at it, and he worked hard. But things came naturally for Shannon."

Hall, who at the time coached all sports at Glennville High, likes to tell the story about how the track team's triple jumper got hurt in midseason during Shannon's sophomore year, in 1983. Shannon, who had never attempted a triple jump, volunteered to fill in.

"Shannon came up and said he could do that," Hall recalled. "Within a month, he won the state title and ended up setting the state record (a Georgia Class A mark of 48 feet, 3 inches as a junior, which he broke with a 49-5 effort as a senior). All you had to do was show Shannon something once. He just has that ability to excel in everything he does.

"I don't want to sound like I'm a crystal ball, but what both have accomplished doesn't surprise me. They both have good work habits and are dedicated to what they set out to do."

In the only season (1982) Shannon and Sterling played football together, Shannon was a freshman reserve running back/defensive back while Sterling was winning county Player of the Year honors as a senior running back.

After Sterling left, Shannon became the team's star. Following a fine senior season, he was ready to follow Sterling to the major-college ranks. But Shannon failed to pass his college board exam—"I had a basketball game on the road the night before and didn't get enough sleep," he said—and Division I schools shied away from recruiting him. After sitting out as a Proposition 48 casualty at Savannah State in 1986, he went on to win league Offensive Player of the Year honors three consecutive seasons.

After his senior year, Shannon was selected to play in the East-West Shrine and Blue-Gray all-star games, a rarity for a small-college player. It was there that he was spotted by Denver scouts.

"I knew that I didn't have the great foot speed Sterling has," Shannon said. "Or the shiftiness. I was a heavier person than he was, so what I had to do is be my own man and do what I could do.

"I've never tried to go out there and try to do what he does. I knew I couldn't do that. I didn't want to get in the situation where I thought I had to be as good as he was. I didn't need any added pressure. I already had enough pressure because he was my big brother, and all that he had accomplished."

Not surprisingly, Shannon went through a rebellious stage.

"It was tough having people want me to be so much like my brother," Shannon said. "The thing is, we were so much different. I was more vocal, more rambunctious back then. Everybody wanted me to be like him and I said I wasn't going to be like him. I was going to be my own person and do whatever I wanted to.

"It's funny, but now we're so much alike."

Both respect and protect their privacy, but go about it in different ways.

Among other things, Sterling is active in anti-drug programs and is a certified speaker in the For Better Education program in Columbia, S.C., where he makes his off-season home. He tries to visit Glennville at least twice a month during the off-season. However, he rarely talks with reporters and declined to be interviewed for this article.

Shannon is one of the most quotable Broncos, but he's not involved in off-season activ-

Continued

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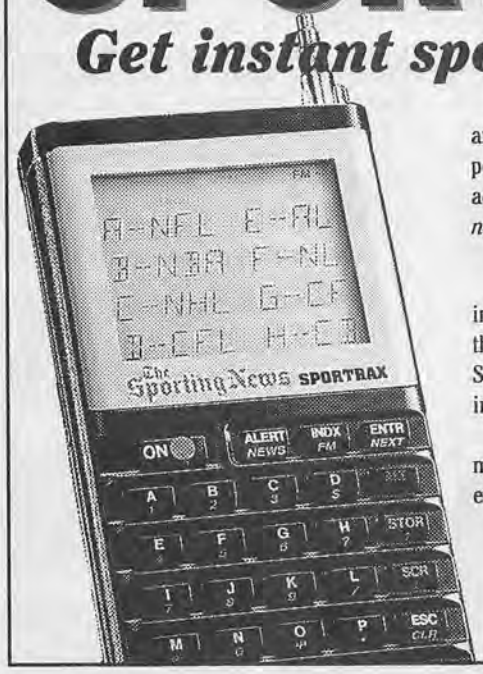

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MY BROTHER THE ALL-PRO

ities. Instead, he prefers to spend time with his family in Glennville when he's not playing football.

Both have repeatedly declined offers from Glennville city fathers to honor them with a parade or special day.

"I go there because I'm treated the same way I used to be treated when I was in high school or college," Sterling told Team NFL magazine last year. "You can always go back home because they understand that you're tired and you want to get away from being treated (like a professional athlete).

"It's kind of fun. My friends and I talk about certain games or certain plays or different players, players I know who they want to know something about."

Shannon said he respects his brother's decision to not talk with reporters.

"I don't know what happened between him and the media," Shannon said. "From what he's told me, he thought he was treated unfairly when he first got there (Green Bay). He was a first-round pick, and they had high expectations of him. When I came in, I was a seventh-round pick. If I made the team and became a success, the guys who scouted me are geniuses.

"Now, our personalities and the way we act, the things we say, they're pretty similar. It's to the point where if you saw him, and a couple of minutes later I walked into the room, you could tell we're brothers."

Shannon also prefers to associate only with those he knows.

"I'm really reserved now," he said. "Basically, I'm family. I don't do a whole lot of going out. I'm not a partier. I want to spend time with my family and friends. I mean true friends. I want to make sure that people I talk to have my sincere interests at heart, and care about me.

"When I'm home, I'm usually inside because if people see me working in the yard or walking the dog, they want to come up and talk. I really don't have a whole lot to talk about anymore. Autographs aren't part of my dinner plans.

"Sterling is the same way, but he gets his point across a lot different than I do. He's going to snap. He's going to say some things people aren't going to want to hear. He's always been like that."

Sterling doesn't deny it.

"We handle people a lot differently," he told Team NFL magazine. "I think I can fit in just about any situation, like being a new guy. I think it's a lot harder for Shannon to make friends than it is for me.

"But I think people have also said I'm a lot meaner than he is. I don't mind hurting your feelings to have my free time. I think he does everything he can to stay away from that. You can only push anybody so far, but I think I'll snap a lot sooner than he will."

Sherman Lewis, the Packers' offensive coordinator, sees a different side.

"I'm sure not talking to the media has hurt him as far as national publicity," Lewis said. "He's aware of that. It's a decision he's made. But when you know him, he's got a very outgoing personality. He likes to talk a lot; he talks to everybody—except reporters, I guess."

Both prefer to let their play on the football field do the talking.

The Sharpe brothers are cut from the same blue-collar, second-effort mold. The won't give in or give up. They'll play every down like it's their final one. These guys will motivate themselves and then they'll motivate others. If they can walk, they'll play.

They're warriors.

Take Sterling, for instance. He injured the big toe on his left foot early last November in a Monday-night game at Kansas City. The "turf toe" problem ultimately required surgery in March.

Sterling was unable to practice the rest of the season. But after taking a pain-killing injection prior to every remaining contest, he played in each of the last 10 games at a record-setting level. Sharpe may have been at his best in Green Bay's wild-card playoff victory at Detroit. In that game, the Packers' first postseason conquest in a non-strike year since they beat Oakland in Super Bowl II, he caught three touchdown passes, including a game-winning, 40-yard reception with 55 seconds left in the contest.

"He couldn't even do the pregame warmup drills," said Jon Gruden, the Packers' wide-receivers coach. "That's like playing in the Masters and not having hit a bag of balls for a couple of weeks. And every one of those teams was working on shutting him down. It's like he was playing on the toughest courses every week without being able to practice at all."

Shannon also underwent off-season surgery, to clear bone chips and other debris from his left ankle, which bothered him over the last five games of 1993. He also got by with pregame pain killers and managed to catch 37 passes in those five contests, including an NFL playoff-record-tying 13 in a loss to the Los Angeles Raiders.

More impressive is the fact that Shannon drew at least two defenders on nearly every play during those final five games. The Broncos lost one starting wide receiver, Vance Johnson, for the season because of a dislocated ankle during a November 28 game at Seattle, and the other starting wideout, Derek Russell, missed the final three regular-season games with an ankle injury.

Shannon never complained.

"That's just the way we were brought up," he said. "I can remember my high school coach telling me one of our uncles played a whole game with a broken collarbone."

Thick thighs, Popeye forearms and barrel chests give the Sharpe brothers a physical advantage against almost every player, including linebackers.

Green Bay's Gruden still likes to show the replay of a catch Sterling once made against Tampa Bay. It went for only eight yards, "but it was the darnedest eight-yard catch you'll ever see," Gruden said. "He caught the ball three yards deep, then split two linebackers and broke tackles by two cornerbacks and a safety before getting five more yards for the first down."

Gruden calls Sterling the greatest "shoulder-pad receiver" of all time.

"He'll use his shoulder pads to block and to break tackles; he'll lower the boom like a halfback," Gruden said. "We try to teach that, but the will to go in there and sacrifice your body is something that has to come from within.

"I describe Sterling as a 210-pound killer shark on the loose every play. He can make you miss, he can take a short pass the distance, or he can knock you out. His passion for the game is unparalleled. And he has no fear—none."

Sterling has been a starter since his rookie season, when he grabbed 55 passes for 791 yards. The following year, he led the league with 90 catches en route to breaking the Green Bay single-season record of 74 recep-

TOM DIPACE

TOM DIPACE

Sterling Sharpe has achieved superstar status in the NFL, but the play of Shannon Sharpe (above) is certainly worthy of high fives, too.

tions set in 1942 by Don Hutson.

Shannon's route to the big time was slower and tougher. His NFL career didn't really kick in until his third season, when he caught 53 passes. As a rookie in 1990, Shannon totaled only seven receptions in 16 games. He caught 22 passes in 1991.

The Broncos were part of the problem. They didn't know where to play him or how to use him. He was called a wide receiver as a rookie, an H-back the next two years and a tight end last season.

In fact, during the 1992 campaign, the Broncos received several calls from fantasy-football enthusiasts wanting to know exactly what position Shannon played.

Answer: He's three players in one.

"He combines the receiving ability of a wide receiver, the physical play of a tight end and the running ability of a running back," Denver offensive coordinator Jim Fassel said. "Like a halfback, he can get out of the backfield and also can block people on the move.

"So, are you going to treat him like a tight end or a wide receiver or a back? That puts a lot of pressure on the defense."

Shannon enjoys being called a tight end, a 230-pound tight end.

"He takes great pride in blocking as a tight end," said Les Steckel, who coaches that position for the Broncos. "He really takes a lot of pride in blocking. You have to be a great technician, because at 230 pounds you're sometimes going against 300-pounders."

Fassel calls Shannon "a money player" in the classic sense.

"What I noticed was, the more competitive the situation, the better Shannon performed," Fassel said. "And that intrigued me. So, I continued to devise things and ways to feature him.

"He's become a guy to go to in a critical situation. A money player is a guy who will get the job done, no matter what it takes. With a guy like that, all a coach has to do is give him the opportunity."

Shannon and Sterling may be the only players in the NFL to like practice and film-room preparation almost as much as Sunday afternoons. And they *really* like Sunday afternoons.

"The hardest thing I've ever done," Shannon said, "was hold out (for little more than a week) in training camp (1992) because I wanted to be there. I told my agent I was losing sleep not being there. I love playing the game. It's not a job to me."

The Sharpes push each other—and pull for each other.

The Packers' Gruden said one of the highlights of his coaching career was to watch Sterling's actions on the bench while Shannon went against the Green Bay defense in last year's game.

"I know that's not exactly what you want somebody on your team to do—pull for the guy on the other side," Gruden said. "But blood is thick. He's big time for family and his brother. He's all about passion. He has a passion for the game, and a passion for living. That's one reason, I'm sure, why he thrives under pressure.

"He has the passion."

And pride.

"There's nothing he wants to do more than win," the Packers' Lewis said. "He takes losses hard, but then the next week he's back at practice trying to make sure it doesn't happen again.

"He wants the ball. He knows he can't help the team if he doesn't get the ball."

Gruden said Sterling reminds him of the way Magic Johnson played basketball. Both can take over a game. Both are convinced they will make the play every time. And both play with that Cheshire cat smile of confidence.

Same with Shannon.

"It's a pleasure throwing to Shannon," Broncos quarterback John Elway said, "because I know he wants the ball and will do everything he can to get it. He's a real competitor. You appreciate that."

How's this for competition: After the 1992 season, in which they became the first brothers ever to lead their teams in receiving in the same year, Shannon talked Sterling into making a bet. A winner-take-all total of $20,000 would go to the brother with the most receptions in 1993.

Two-thirds of the way through the season, Shannon conceded defeat and "bought out" the bet for an undisclosed payment of substantially less than the original amount.

In any case, the wager was worth it. Shannon knew what he was doing.

"I think it pushed us both," Shannon said. "Look at the odds of two brothers from a small town making All-Pro. It's probably like a 5-year-old solving the Rubik's Cube. It may never happen again."

Until this season, perhaps. ◆

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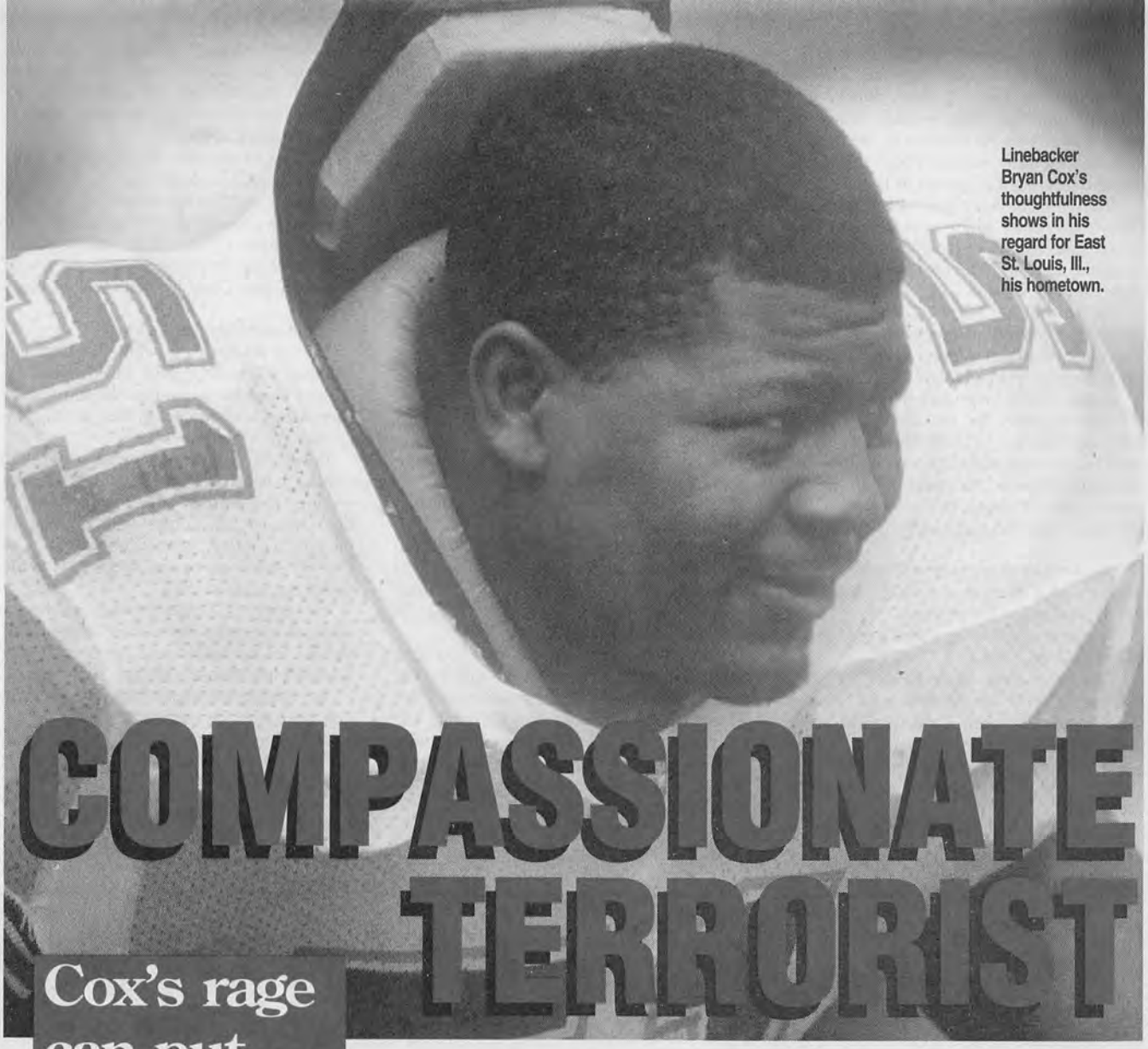

Linebacker Bryan Cox's thoughtfulness shows in his regard for East St. Louis, Ill., his hometown.

TOM DIPACE

COMPASSIONATE TERRORIST

Cox's rage can put Dolphins in swim of things or leave them dead in water —but he's clearly one who cares

By SCOTT FOWLER
Miami Herald

There is a rage that boils inside Bryan Cox, a rage barely dammed by a membrane of reason when he stands on a football field. Prick the membrane, just slightly, and the Miami Dolphins' linebacker veers into a white-hot fury.

He has lived with this rage for years, cultivating it the way someone else might nurture a rose garden. He believes the rage is what transformed him from a fifth-round National Football League draft choice into the unquestioned leader of Miami's defense. It is what compensates for a lack of speed—Cox's 4.93 time in the 40-yard dash makes him one of the slowest starting linebackers in the NFL—and what has taken him to the Pro Bowl.

And gotten him in trouble.

On most occasions, the 6-foot-4, 241-pound Cox is a thoughtful man, one who has catapulted himself out of one of the nation's toughest neighborhoods and into NFL stardom. His football success has enabled him to open a towing business in his hometown of East St. Louis, Ill., so he can employ most of his relatives who still live there. It is what has enabled him to buy his mother a new house. Cox's wife, LaTonia, and children adore him, and if he was your next-door neighbor, you'd find him both charming and genuine.

But there's another side to Cox, the one the public is more familiar with:

- In 1991, Cox, then a rookie, challenged the entire Cincinnati Bengals bench to a fight during a Monday-night game in Miami. A Cincinnati player had taken a nasty shot at Dolphins place-kicker Pete Stoyanovich.
- In September 1993, in the week preceding a Dolphins game at Buffalo, Cox denigrated the city of Buffalo, its team and its fans. He said he simply didn't like any aspects of any of the three. Bills fans, in turn, came to the game with banners ripping Cox and hurled racial slurs at him. Before the game, Cox saluted the nearly 80,000 fans at Rich Stadium with both of his hands—middle fingers raised.
- In December 1993, Cox, feeling that his manhood had been insulted, challenged a fan attending a Giants-Dolphins game at Joe Robbie Stadium to a fight. Cox offered his tormentor $10,000 to come down on the field and duke it out with him. The fan actually did come down, but not of his own volition. Another fan, one eager to see the fight, pushed him over a railing. The affair resulted in the

arrest of the pusher and the brief hospitalization of the pushee.

• In the same game, Cox had to be restrained by teammates as he attempted to attack back judge Bill Lovett. The Dolphins were losing in the game, and Cox chose Lovett as the recipient of the rage he was feeling at the time. Minutes later, Cox verbally jousted with NFL Security representative Ed DuBois, the man in charge of protecting the officials that afternoon, and called him a redneck.

"I've been detrimental to our team at times with my outbursts," Cox said. "I know that. But my game is an attacking, emotional, relentless one. I've got to cut loose and let whatever happens, happen. If I lose that, I lose my game."

The Dolphins, of course, really don't want to take Cox's rage away from him. Anyone who has played football knows that a little rage can be very useful. The Dolphins just want Cox's inner dam to stop springing so many holes.

Miami Coach Don Shula, who was cut from much the same cloth as Cox, understands. Shula, describing himself, has told many a reporter that "I'm as subtle as a punch in the mouth"—so it's unlikely he'll ever try to neuter Cox. But he does want to control him.

"His aggressiveness and his emotion are very positive for us in many situations," Shula said. "But we can't have him doing things that hurt the team, like drawing penalties or getting thrown out of a game."

Tom Olivadotti, a Dolphins assistant who, in effect, has defensive-coordinator responsibilities, has gone round and round with Cox about his behavior. "I've never been psyched up about guys who get in fights," Olivadotti said. "That stuff is for the spectators."

One reason Shula and Olivadotti are reluctant to harness Cox's fire is because they need it. The Dolphins allowed an average of 21.9 points per game last season (fifth most in the league) and they are counting on Cox to help them restructure the defense in 1994. The coaches know that no one hurts more than Cox when Miami loses, as it did five consecutive times at the end of last season to fall out of playoff contention.

Cox led the Dolphins in tackles for the second straight season, but his sack total dropped from 14 in 1992 to just five as he was often double-teamed when used as a defensive end in passing situations. Miami's defense was pretty well depleted by injuries toward the end of the season, and Cox alone was unable to stop the barrage.

"The season was really not up to par for me," said Cox, who got so down during the five-game losing streak that he even talked about retirement. He since has said he will play at least through the 1995 season.

"The troublesome thing to me was that I didn't stand out well enough at the end, when we had to win," he said. "I had emotion, but not the right sort of emotion."

Cox's teammates give him unconditional respect, primarily because Cox is as loyal as Lassie. He was only a rookie when he stood up to the Cincinnati bench that night in 1991, and the incident helped to cement his reputation as one of the team's emotional sparks. It didn't hurt that not a single Bengal accepted Cox's challenge, and Shula praised the linebacker repeatedly afterward. It also didn't hurt that Miami scored 20 straight points after the incident and won the game.

Cox's fierce loyalty extends throughout the Miami organization. When Jimmy Johnson left as coach of the Dallas Cowboys last spring, speculation was rampant that Johnson would replace Shula after the latter's contract expired at the end of the 1994 season. Cox quickly stood up for his coach.

"I don't know that I even respect Jimmy Johnson as a man," he said. "I don't know what to make of a guy who left his wife and ignored his kids and concentrated strictly on football." (Johnson divorced his wife after he got the Dallas job and has admitted that he wasn't close to his two sons while they were growing up because he was too busy with football.)

Cox sticks up for his teammates, too, even when he knows they are wrong. Once, in 1992, wide receiver Mark Clayton let loose with some derogatory comments about Lisa Olson, the former Boston Globe reporter who had been harassed the previous season in an infamous run-in with several members of the New England Patriots. Clayton made his comments in an open locker room in Foxboro, Mass., and they were later reported by several newspapers in south Florida. Cox later helped Clayton organize a brief team-wide boycott of those papers, but not because he thought Clayton was correct. He felt he had to support his teammate.

Cox is obsessive about protecting "his people," and to understand why, you have to know where he comes from. Cox has said his old East St. Louis neighborhood "makes 'Boyz N the Hood' look like Beverly Hills." It is not America at its finest.

Bryan is the youngest of three sons born to Nancy and Ronald Cox, who divorced in 1968 soon after Bryan was born. In 1974, Nancy Cox married Otis Williams, who did computer work at a pharmaceutical firm. With Nancy working as well, in a meat-packing plant, the Cox family avoided the need for government assistance in the poverty-stricken community.

"I never wanted for the basics," Cox said. "I had a close family bond with my mother, my stepfather and my brothers. They taught me early that I had to work for whatever I got, that nobody was just going to come in, knock on your door and offer you a job in the NFL or the NBA."

Cox's two older brothers tried to keep him off the streets, away from the neighbor who dealt drugs and the house across the street where a local gang met. Bryan Cox, however, wasn't immune to his environment. He fathered a child at 15—a daughter, Lavonda, whom he is now trying to get back in a custody dispute with the girl's mother. The younger Cox got into his share of bloody scrapes, too, but he was never arrested. Instead, he dedicated himself to going to school, playing football and getting ahead.

Cox had the good fortune to play his high school ball under Bob Shannon, a local legend who never did anything wrong, Cox says, except curse a few times. Cox's football skills were good enough to earn him a scholarship to Western Illinois, a Division I-AA school in Macomb, but the bigger schools thought he was a marginal prospect. Cox himself says that he's never been very strong or very fast.

But Cox had one thing the college recruiters couldn't measure: rage. One of his assistant coaches at Western Illinois called Cox a "compassionate terrorist," and that's about as good a description as any. Cox once told his teammates that he was going to run into a rival coach on a play along the sidelines because that coach had been recruiting negatively against Western Illinois. His teammates talked him out of it.

In his 1990 senior season, when Cox was voted all-conference, Ronald Cox was arrested for dealing drugs. Although his father also had remarried, Bryan and his dad stayed in touch. The younger Cox was deeply hurt by his father's arrest and visited him only once during his 11 months in prison. Ronald Cox missed his son's college graduation and saw him play only one football game at Western Illinois "because he was busy selling drugs," as Bryan bluntly puts it.

After Ronald Cox got out of prison, he and Bryan (by this time with the Dolphins) made up. But Ronald started dealing crack cocaine again, and the two men stopped speaking. Ronald Cox died of a heart attack four months later, never having reconciled with his son.

His father's problems still haunt Cox, who is determined not to let anyone else in his family stray from a law-abiding path. He also doesn't want any members of his family to stop talking to other family members. To that end, in 1992, Cox created All-Star Towing, an East St. Louis company that employs six Cox relatives. Bryan's oldest brother, Tony, runs the operation. Bryan Cox had gotten a handle on the towing business as a teenager, when he worked in a lot in East St. Louis and occasionally had to push around crippled Pintos and Chevettes, sort of a makeshift workout for a budding football star.

"I wanted to put something back into my community with this business," Cox said. "I wanted to provide a place for my family to work and I wanted to make some money, too."

Although Cox lives in a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., suburb year-round, he still visits his hometown. He has criticized athletes who never go back to their old communities to try to make them better, particularly black athletes, whom he feels have a special duty in this regard. Cox conducts a football camp and a golf tournament in East St. Louis every year, but he moved his mother out of the area in the off-season.

"I didn't want to worry about her getting shot anymore," Cox said. "She found a house about 15 minutes away (from her former home). We looked at it, she liked it and I bought it."

Buying his mother a new home and spending time with his wife and three children during the off-season was somewhat of an elixir for Cox, who was a frustrated man by the end of the 1993 season. He's already itching for the start of the '94 campaign.

"I wouldn't mind playing 82 games a year like the NBA does, really," Cox said. "There aren't nearly enough games."

When Cox eventually does tire of playing, he wants to become either an FBI agent or a high school coach. "Whichever one I do, I'll do it the same way as I play football," he said.

That means either the FBI or some impressionable teen-agers are going to witness an awful lot of rage. And an awful lot of caring. ◆

Despite a blizzard of grief, Buffalo fans stick with their team—and their city

By DONN ESMONDE
Buffalo News

The in-your-face attitude of Buffalo Bills fans, just before Super Bowl XXVIII, was both perversely amusing and revealing.

Their team had lost three consecutive Super Bowls, the previous two by increasingly lopsided margins. Now there was the possibility of a fourth consecutive defeat and the negative perceptions a loss would bring to the team and the city.

And yet, the fans approached the game with not only hopeful enthusiasm, but with a concise pre-Super Bowl catch phrase uttered by Bills faithful: deal with it, America.

So it comes as no surprise that a similar chant is on the lips of Bills fans this preseason. The final gun had hardly sounded after Buffalo's 30-13 loss to the Dallas Cowboys last January when this season's slogan was uttered across western New York. It's a rallying cry that should strike fear in the hearts of National Football League fans everywhere.

The Drive for Five.

Not rain, snow, four straight Super Bowl defeats or the off-season losses of two All-Pros (offensive tackle Howard Ballard and cornerback Nate Odomes) to free agency will discourage the Buffalo faithful. Nothing will prevent the fans from hoping, praying and rooting for yet another Bills appearance in the big one—the sooner the better.

Outsiders might attribute this desire to a masochistic bent in the population or too much chlorine in the Lake Erie drinking water. It is neither. The desire to see the Bills in another Super Bowl is a unique affliction in a unique town.

For the city of Buffalo, which has endured numerous civic and sports setbacks during this century, four consecutive Super Bowl losses is no more bothersome than a buzzing fly to a mule team.

Buffalo was a thriving port when President William McKinley was assassinated there in 1901. By the time Scott Norwood was wide right on the field-goal attempt that would have won Super Bowl XXV for the Bills, Buffalo was among the 10 poorest cities in America.

The 90-year span between McKinley's murder and Norwood's misfire saw the closing of the steel mills, the eroding of Buffalo's importance as a commerce center and the "Blizzard of '77." The infamous snowstorm defined the city's image for many, as Buffalo became an alternative punch line to Cleveland—the other mistake by the lake.

Buffalo's sports teams haven't fared much better in the last few decades. Despite having some teams perform well both in the regular season and playoffs, no Buffalo team has ever won a major sports championship. The history of sports in Buffalo is a story of diverse frustration.

In 1979, the National Basketball Association's Braves skipped town for San Diego. The National Hockey League's Sabres descended into mediocrity soon after losing in the Stanley Cup finals to Philadelphia in 1975.

Last season's first-round playoff victory over the Boston Bruins ended a 10-year period in which the Sabres either didn't qualify for the postseason or didn't advance beyond the first round.

And, despite having a beautiful downtown baseball stadium and a prosperous Class AAA team in the Buffalo Bisons, the city has been passed over for a major league expansion franchise.

All of these factors contribute to the city's negative national image and feed an inferiority complex in the city—living in Buffalo means always having to explain yourself.

That's why the Bills' perseverance is a source of pride for the people who live in the Buffalo area. Dealing with 90-plus inches of

Sure, their team has dropped four straight Super Bowls, but Bills fans are longing for a fifth trip in a row.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

snow every year has helped develop a similar resolve among their fans. The bond formed by battling the elements and deflecting the jabs of a nation fosters an us-against-the-world mentality. It's little wonder that, when the Bills reach the Super Bowl, the folks back home are behind them—no matter how often they have been disappointed.

The Bills are so loved because the Super Bowl is one of the few ways in which the struggling city can capture the nation's attention. And in terms of national image, the city has much to gain and little to lose.

"It's like Green Bay, in a way, which is also a smaller market," Bills fan Maureen Kelly said. "The team is our connection to the big time. And, at this point, it's like, 'Who cares?' We've been laughed at as much as we can be."

To call Kelly a "loyal fan" would be an understatement. She is a Buffalo native who moved to the New York City area 15 years ago and still has season tickets. Kelly flies 400 miles to attend every Bills home game. But the team's notoriety isn't confined to western New York state.

Buffalo fan Pat Ruffino explained that a friend of his, while vacationing in the Caribbean last winter, met people who had heard of the Bills. "When the natives heard he was from Buffalo," Ruffino said, "that's all they wanted to talk about—the Bills and the Super Bowl. They didn't know anything else about the city."

Still, the Super Bowl losses may be working in the Bills' favor. The team's underdog status and drive to win seemed to appeal to many Americans last January. A pre-Super Bowl XXVIII poll revealed that, despite Dallas' alleged status as America's team, rooting interest nationally was about evenly divided between the Cowboys and Bills.

"I'm sure there are some people around the country who are saying, 'Gosh, I wish they'd win one,' " said Steve Tasker, the Bills' special-teams dynamo, before Super Bowl XXVIII.

For Ruffino and thousands of others, it's not the losing that matters. It's the prospect of the Bills—someday, someway—winning the big one.

"Just winning one would erase the other four," Ruffino said. "Just to see how that feels, to win a championship. You wouldn't see any (postgame) violence or rowdyism here. It would just be jubilation."

A Super Bowl victory would not only provide fans with a reason to boast, but also a measure of revenge. Revenge for the decades the region has been maligned, misunderstood or merely ignored by the nation at large. Revenge for an image wrapped around blizzards and chicken wings.

"You do get a chip on your shoulder after a while," Kelly said, "because Buffalo takes so much abuse."

A Bills victory would mark a rare instance when Buffalo was connected with achievement rather than failure. It's a possibility that appeals to the people of Buffalo, many who believe the region's charms and virtues will remain a local secret forever. They feel that the "other" Buffalo—the one beyond the clichés—will never penetrate the national psyche.

The "other" Buffalo has the world-class art museum, a handful of Frank Lloyd Wright-designed houses and other architectural treasures that rival the chrome-and-glass structures of any big-city modern skyline.

It has the cooling summer breezes off Lake Erie and a 20-minute rush hour.

It has the refurbished downtown where the planned Crossroads Arena, the luxurious new home for the Sabres, is scheduled to open December 31, 1995.

It is the Buffalo that's making the rocky transition from a steel-based economy to a service-based economy.

Even with those worthwhile qualities, there remains some truth to the image of Buffalo as a graying, rust-belt town. The auto industry still provides thousands of local jobs and, according to 1990 census data, one in four Buffalo residents lives below the poverty level. It's merely a long punt from the Crossroads Arena site to a collection of grain elevators, reminders of Buffalo's vanishing industrial might.

The scene is quite different in Denver and Minneapolis, the homes of the Broncos and Vikings, the only other NFL franchises to lose four Super Bowls.

Both are larger cities of more obvious charms and prosperity than Buffalo. Minneapolis has become a regular site for major sports events—some achieved through the "bidding" process, others via the success of local teams. In the '90s, it has hosted the Final Four, the World Series, professional golf's U.S. Open, the Super Bowl, the Stanley Cup finals and the NBA All-Star Game. It has a low unemployment rate, various cultural choices and a bustling, department store-rich downtown.

Denver, with its majestic landscapes and mountain air, is a major center for finance and industry in the Rocky Mountain region. The city's positive attributes attracted major league baseball, which awarded the city the Colorado Rockies.

Minneapolis and Denver are praised for their good qualities, not maligned for their shortcomings. In both cities, the Super Bowl losses became an increasingly negative proposition for residents. After the first couple of defeats, the possibility of another Super Bowl go-round wasn't met with much enthusiasm by fans.

In Denver, before the 1990 AFC championship game, Bronco fans were fearful of losing another Super Bowl. "There were definitely a lot of people who didn't want them to go back again," said Joseph Sanchez, Broncos correspondent for The Sporting News. "Some people seemed to take it as a personal embarrassment."

Denver's chance of the winning the Super Bowl became less important than the albatross of repeated losses. Having a football team that could not win the Super Bowl was tarnishing the images of both Denver and Minneapolis.

But in Buffalo, the level of enthusiasm before the Bills' fourth Super Bowl appearance was nearly the same as before their first appearance. Thousands of children still made good-luck cards for the team, local businesses placed "Go Bills" banners in their windows and hundreds of fans, without tickets, traveled to Atlanta anyway in hopes of seeing the game.

The enthusiasm hasn't waned since Super Disappointment IV. Despite an off-season price increase, Bills officials expect the season-ticket base to remain at the 50,000 range of last year.

Season tickets are just one indication of the region's obsession with the team. Local supermarkets often broadcast Bills games over their speaker systems. The Bills are the main topic of elevator and lunch-line conversation from July through January, overshadowing even the weather.

And let's not forget Norwood, whose failed field-goal attempt would have won Super Bowl XXV. The day after the game, he was treated like a returning hero by 30,000 fans at a downtown rally.

Obsessed?

After Buffalo's last Super Bowl loss, a local newspaper columnist's tongue-in-cheek reference to a crisis hotline number for distraught fans resulted in more than 100 calls the morning after the game.

Obsessed? Oh yes.

Which is why there are no apologies as Bills fans ponder the outcome of the 1994 season. The hope is that this is the year the stars align, the luck holds, the NFC East teams stay home and the hometown heroes return from Super Bowl XXIX with the Vince Lombardi Trophy.

The Drive for Five. Deal with it, America. ◆

1995 NFL DR

West offers top two quarterback prospects; Big Ten supplies No. 1 at halfback, fullback

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Rob Johnson, Southern Cal	6-3/211	Figures to be a top-five pick.
2. John Walsh, Brigham Young*	6-4/213	Sophisticated offense has aided his development.
3. Steve McNair, Alcorn State	6-2/209	Top small-college prospect in draft.
4. Eric Zeier, Georgia	6-1/202	Productive, timing-touch passer.
5. Dave Barr, California	6-3/205	Size and arm strength are top-notch.
6. Scott Milanovich, Maryland*	6-3/218	Shines in Mark Duffner's run-and-shoot attack.
7. Chad May, Kansas State	6-1/212	Key to turnaround of Wildcats' program.
8. Steve Stenstrom, Stanford	6-2/199	Heady overachiever in perfect system.
9. Kerry Collins, Penn State	6-4/224	Strong finish last year bodes well for '94.
10. Todd Collins, Michigan	6-4/220	Physical skills are intriguing.

HALFBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Tyrone Wheatley, Michigan	6-0/230	Probable No. 1 pick overall.
2. Leeland McElroy, Texas A&M+	5-10/200	In the Barry Sanders mold.
3. Ki-Jana Carter, Penn State	5-9/210	Best Nittany Lion running back since Curt Warner.
4. Rodney Thomas, Texas A&M	5-11/208	Coming off great spring.
5. James Stewart, Miami (Fla.)*	6-2/227	Size/speed ratio puts him in elite class.
6. Curtis Martin, Pittsburgh	5-11/195	Will have to carry Panthers' offense.
7. Napoleon Kaufman, Washington	5-8/175	In the Dave Meggett mold.
8. Brandon Bennett, South Carolina	6-0/205	Consistency is his forte.
9. Lee Becton, Notre Dame	5-11/190	Resourceful runner with top instincts.
10. Brent Moss, Wisconsin	5-8/202	Quick, elusive and determined.
11. Anthony Shelman, Louisville	6-2/200	Moves into the spotlight this year.
12. Jamal Willis, Brigham Young	6-2/212	Talented but needs to shake underachiever label.
13. Jermaine Chaney, Indiana	6-0/203	Hard-charging north-south runner.
14. J.J. Smith, Kansas State	5-11/202	Explosive, with excellent change of direction.
15. Ernest Hunter, SE Oklahoma	5-9/205	Sleeper worth keeping a close eye on.

FULLBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Eddie George, Ohio State+	6-2/230	Top big back in the country.
2. Larry Jones, Miami (Fla.)	6-0/239	Has abundant raw physical talent.
3. Ray Zellars, Notre Dame	5-10/229	Good complementary-type player.
4. Michael Davis, Mississippi State	6-0/234	Underrated in talent-laden SEC.
5. Tarrant Lynch, Alabama	5-11/233	Unstoppable near the goal line.
6. Charles Way, Virginia	6-1/236	Powerful, with surprising quickness to hole.
7. William Henderson, North Carolina	6-0/243	Clears the way for explosive running backs.
8. Dwight Shirley, Boston College	5-10/226	Bowling-ball type who is hard to corral.
9. Mose Phillips, Tennessee	5-11/228	Carries defenders three-four yards after being hit.
10. Dou Innocent, Mississippi	6-0/210	Back in action after missing the '93 season.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. J.J. Stokes, UCLA	6-4/215	Super blue-chipper with unlimited pro potential.
2. Bobby Engram, Penn State	5-9/181	Smaller version of Tim Brown.
3. Mike Adams, Texas+	5-11/175	Big-play man with explosive speed.
4. David Dunn, Fresno State	6-2/209	Best-kept secret on the West Coast.
5. Lovell Pinkney, Texas+	6-4/205	Awesome weapon due to size and athletic ability.
6. Michael Westbrook, Colorado	6-3/205	First-rounder with more consistency.
7. Mill Coleman, Michigan State	5-9/173	Do-it-all, game-breaker type.
8. Dietrich Jells, Pittsburgh	6-0/175	One of the top deep threats in the country.
9. Joey Galloway, Ohio State	5-9/183	Most versatile offensive weapon in the Big Ten.
10. Johnny Thomas, Arizona State	6-0/177	Primary target for super sophomore QB Jake Plummer.
11. Roell Preston, Mississippi	5-10/178	Could make a name for himself this season.
12. Lee DeRamus, Wisconsin	6-3/186	Big-play man can catch in traffic.
13. Antonio Freeman, Virginia Tech	6-0/177	Fluid athlete with soft hands.
14. Chris T. Jones, Miami (Fla.)	6-2/203	Shows flashes of brilliance.
15. Kez McCorvey, Florida State	6-0/178	Standout possession receiver.

TIGHT ENDS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Pete Mitchell, Boston College	6-2/235	In the Brent Jones mold.
2. Kyle Brady, Penn State	6-5/255	Sets up well in the hook zones.
3. Brian Rees, Kansas State	6-4/249	Excellent second option for passer Chad May.
4. Mark Bruener, Washington	6-4/233	Excels as an in-line blocker.
5. Justin Armour, Stanford	6-5/221	Collegiate wideout with Velcro hands.
6. Oscar McBride, Notre Dame	6-4/249	Has yet to reach his full potential.
7. Christian Fauria, Colorado	6-3/230	Outstanding pass-receiving threat.
8. Greg DeLong, North Carolina	6-3/241	Not flashy, but does everything expected.
9. Mike Roan, Wisconsin	6-3/247	Vital weapon for the upstart Badgers.
10. Willy Tate, Oregon	6-3/237	Great talent who dropped off team in spring.

CENTERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Jason James, Fresno State	6-4/303	Most underrated lineman on West Coast.
2. Lawson Mollica, Pittsburgh	6-3/275	Technically sound in the middle.
3. Cory Raymer, Wisconsin	6-3/290	Has the strength, mean streak to handle nose tackles.
4. Mark Birchmeier, Michigan State	6-2/277	Classic overachiever.
5. Frank Garcia, Washington	6-0/290	Has made the move from strong guard.

GUARDS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Evan Pilgrim, Brigham Young	6-4/280	Excellent feet, quickness and tenacity.
2. DeMario Vaughn, Arizona State	6-4/283	Top pure athlete at guard position.
3. Mark Zataveski, Notre Dame	6-5/297	Rugged at the point of attack.
4. Jon Stevenson, Alabama	6-3/289	Starter since his freshman year.
5. John Jones, Kansas	6-2/286	Consistent player who works hard.

TACKLES

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Korey Stringer, Ohio State+	6-5/315	Could be one of best ever in Big Ten.
2. Shane Hannah, Michigan State	6-4/320	Dominates collegiate defensive ends.
3. Tony Boselli, Southern Cal	5-7/315	Trojans' next first-round offensive lineman.
4. Zach Wiegert, Nebraska	6-4/313	Similar to former Cornhusker Dean Steinkuhler.
5. Reuben Brown, Pittsburgh	6-3/310	Defines the term "pancake block" with rugged style.
6. Blake Brockermeyer, Texas*	6-5/288	Athletic, with quick feet and great balance.
7. Trezelle Jenkins, Michigan*	6-6/310	Mammoth pro-style lineman.
8. Steve Ingram, Maryland	6-4/290	Could rise to near the head of the class.
9. Steve Hardin, Oregon	6-6/308	Best Duck offensive lineman since Gary Zimmerman.
10. Eli Herring, Brigham Young	6-5/300	More tenacious than BYU linemen of recent years.
11. Torrey Gaines, SE Oklahoma	6-6/291	Standout at low level of competition.
12. Brian Thure, California	6-4/300	Moves out of Todd Steussie's shadow in '94.
13. Tom Nutten, Western Michigan	6-4/283	Top prospect in the Mid-American Conference.
14. Alvin Paschal, NE Louisiana	6-5/310	Excellent feet for player of his dimensions.
15. Ryan Leahy, Notre Dame	6-3/285	Moves from guard to tackle this year.

UCLA wideout J.J. Stokes (left) and Michigan State offensive tackle Shane Hannah dominate their collegiate foes and possess excellent pro potential.

AFT PREVIEW

Compiled by Mel Kiper Jr., Draft Publications, Inc.

DEFENSE

ENDS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Kevin Carter, Florida	6-5/263	Quick, athletic outside pass rusher.
2. Mike Frederick, Virginia	6-4/265	Relentless performer with excellent first step.
3. Brad Bowers, California	6-6/267	Has the tools but needs to put them to better use.
4. Ken Talanoa, Arizona State	6-4/260	Intense, productive attacker.
5. Luther Elliss, Utah	6-4/263	Makes impact plays with regularity.
6. Dwayne Johnson, Miami (Fla.)	6-4/265	This should be his year to shine.
7. Shawn King, NE Louisiana	6-5/258	Potential gem if he adds some bulk.
8. Travis Hall, Brigham Young	6-5/256	Can wreak havoc with his fire and closing speed.
9. Jamal Duff, San Diego State	6-6/259	Diamond in the rough.
10. Don Sasa, Washington State*	6-4/277	Agile defender who never lets up.

TACKLES

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Derrick Alexander, Florida State*	6-4/279	One of top defensive players in the nation.
2. Jim Hoffman, Arizona	6-3/277	Better prospect than former teammate Rob Waldrop.
3. Warren Sapp, Miami (Fla.)*	6-2/283	Does a good job occupying center and guard.
4. Chad Eaton, Washington State	6-4/278	This should be his breakthrough year.
5. Elverett Brown, Alabama	6-4/280	Solid against the run and pass.
6. Ellis Johnson, Florida	6-2/276	Good complementary inside performer.
7. Tony Henderson, Michigan	6-2/267	Creates a disturbance in the middle.
8. Norman Hand, Mississippi	6-2/300	Runs a 4.90 and has tremendous strength.
9. David Turnipseed, South Carolina	6-3/265	Motor never stops running.
10. Troy Petersen, Iowa State	6-3/289	Unsung standout on outmanned Cyclone squad.

LINEBACKERS

INSIDE

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Lorenzo Styles, Ohio State+	6-1/243	Gifted in the middle, with awesome pro potential.
2. Jerrott Willard, California	6-1/235	Smart, intense and productive.
3. Dana Howard, Illinois	5-11/236	Only drawback is lack of ideal height.
4. Sean Harris, Arizona	6-3/244	Physical skills are what the NFL is looking for.
5. Michael Rogers, Alabama	6-0/237	Low-based inside man who packs a wallop.
6. John Holecek, Illinois	6-2/232	Always seems to be around the ball.
7. Tom Tumulty, Pittsburgh*	6-3/238	Heart and soul of Pitt's defense.
8. Abdul Jackson, Mississippi	6-0/240	Stuffs the inside running plays.
9. Justin Goheen, Notre Dame	6-1/235	Gets the most out of his ability.
10. Randy Neal, Virginia	6-2/234	Ringleader of Cavaliers' stop troop.

OUTSIDE

1. Antonio Shorter, Texas A&M	6-3/233	Explosive attacker for Aggies.
2. Craig Powell, Ohio State*	6-3/230	Fastest linebacker in the country.
3. Derrick Brooks, Florida State	6-1/225	Could be outside man or strong safety in NFL.
4. Oscar Sturgis, North Carolina	6-4/251	Size/speed ratio is exceptional.
5. Chris Cowart, Florida State	6-2/232	Known for ability to make game-changing play.
6. Ben Talley, Tennessee	6-2/236	Athletic, strong and quick.
7. James Roberson, Florida State	6-3/243	Gifted athlete with the size to dominate.
8. Matt Christensen, Michigan State	6-3/234	Moves out of Rob Fredrickson's shadow.
9. Darryl Major, Missouri	6-1/238	Most underrated defensive player in Big Eight.
10. Ken Brown, Virginia Tech	6-2/230	Not physically imposing, but he won't be blocked.
11. Matt Dyson, Michigan	6-4/247	Could skyrocket up the charts with a big season.
12. Steve Harvey, Kansas	6-2/238	Coming off Achilles tendon injury.
13. Greg McThomas, Michigan	6-3/235	Athletic and versatile enough to play any linebacker position.
14. Matt Taffoni, West Virginia	6-0/224	Undersized but extremely active.
15. Jose White, Howard	6-3/245	Sleeper with the desired physical skills.

JAY METZ/UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Florida's Kevin Carter is a quick end who feasts his eyes on the passer.

DEFENSIVE BACKS

CORNERBACKS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Bobby Taylor, Notre Dame+	6-3/190	Tremendous athlete with top instincts.
2. Craig Newsome, Arizona State	6-0/187	Silky smooth man-to-man defender.
3. Clifton Abraham, Florida State	5-9/181	Has a great feel for the position.
4. Chris Hudson, Colorado	5-10/189	Anticipation and ball reactions are superior.
5. Corey Fuller, Florida State	5-11/195	Size and recovery speed get your attention.
6. Kenny Gales, Wisconsin	5-10/175	Coming off a terrific junior campaign.
7. Larry Kennedy, Florida	5-9/180	Veteran defender who won't shy away from a challenge.
8. Cedric Davis, Tennessee State	5-9/173	Rivals former Tennessee State star Randy Fuller.
9. Tommy Johnson, Alabama	5-10/181	Big-play defender with confident approach.
10. John Herpin, Southern California	5-11/185	Converted wideout has taken well to new position.

SAFETIES

1. Sam Shade, Alabama	6-0/189	Has first-round ability.
2. Tony Jones, Syracuse	6-2/198	Hard-nosed, athletic football player.
3. Carl Kidd, Arkansas	6-0/202	Sets the tempo for Razorbacks' defense.
4. David Mayfield, West Virginia	5-10/189	One of the surest tacklers in nation.
5. Carl Greenwood, UCLA	5-11/190	Fundamentally sound, experienced defender.
6. C.J. Richardson, Miami (Fla.)	6-0/199	Physically, he's what you want in an NFL free safety.
7. Norman Greene, South Carolina	6-1/191	Aggressive ballhawk with size.
8. Darryl Pounds, Nicholls State	5-11/180	Has great hands for the interception.
9. Tony Watkins, South Carolina	5-10/191	This man takes no prisoners.
10. Darnell Stephens, Clemson	5-11/225	Former linebacker hits like a ton of bricks.

SPECIALISTS

PLACE-KICKERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. John Becksvoort, Tennessee	6-0/175	Can drive home the long field goals.
2. Joe Nedney, San Jose State	6-4/205	Needs to bounce back from an erratic junior year.
3. Nelson Welch, Clemson	5-8/181	Accurate from 40 yards—and a little beyond.
4. Tom Cochran, Duke*	6-0/185	Has a pro leg, but needs more consistency.
5. Chris Richardson, Illinois	6-3/248	Range gives him a chance.

PUNTERS

Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Comment
1. Todd Sauerbrun, West Virginia	5-11/220	Prospect as both a punter and a place-kicker.
2. Mike Thomas, North Carolina*	6-1/223	Booms the Tar Heels out of trouble.
3. Scott Blanton, Oklahoma	6-1/211	Consistency and directional skills are his forte.
4. Shayne Edge, Florida	5-11/171	Has proven himself under pressure.
5. Jim DiGuilio, Indiana	5-11/179	Net average is just what you want.

NOTE: All heights and weights are from the NFL.

*Fourth-year junior (1991 high school graduate).

+True junior (1992 high school graduate).

1993 AFC STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING

KICKERS

Player, Team	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
Jaeger, Jeff, Raiders	27	29	35	44	132
Del Greco, Al, Hou.	39	40	29	34	126
Carney, John, S.D.	31	33	31	40	124
Elam, Jason, Den.	41	42	26	35	119
Anderson, Gary, Pit.	32	32	28	30	116
Stoyanovich, Pete, Mia.	37	37	24	32	109
Lowery, Nick, K.C.	37	37	23	29	106
Christie, Steve, Buf.	36	37	23	32	105
Kasay, John, Sea.	29	29	23	28	98
Biasucci, Dean, Ind.	15	16	26	31	93
Pelfrey, Doug, Cin.	13	16	24	31	85
Stover, Matt, Cle.	36	36	16	22	84
Blanchard, Cary, Jets	31	31	17	26	82
Sisson, Scott, N.E.	15	15	14	26	57
Bahr, Matt, N.E.	10	10	5	5	25

NON-KICKERS

Player, Team	Total TD	Rush TD	Rec. TD	Misc. TD	Tot. Pts.
Allen, Marcus, K.C. (RB)	15	12	3	0	90
Foster, Barry, Pit. (RB)	9	8	1	0	54
Sharpe, Shannon, Den. (TE)	9	0	9	0	54
Brown, Gary, Hou. (RB)	8	6	2	0	48
Brown, Tim, Raiders (WR/PR)	8	0	7	1	48
Coates, Ben, N.E. (TE)	8	0	8	0	48
Delpino, Robert, Den. (RB)	8	8	0	0	48
Jackson, Michael, Cle. (WR)	8	0	8	0	48
Means, Natrone, S.D. (RB)	8	8	0	0	48
Baxter, Brad, Jets (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Davis, Willie, K.C. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Miller, Anthony, S.D. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Russell, Leonard, N.E. (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Warren, Chris, Sea. (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Byars, Keith, Mia. (RB)	6	3	3	0	36
Davis, Kenneth, Buf. (RB)	6	6	0	0	36
Ingram, Mark, Mia. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Jackson, Keith, Mia. (TE)	6	0	6	0	36
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Kirby, Terry, Mia. (RB)	6	3	3	0	36
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets (TE)	6	0	6	0	36
Pickens, Carl, Cin. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Reed, Andre, Buf. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Thomas, Thurman, Buf. (RB)	6	6	0	0	36
Brooks, Bill, Buf. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Carrier, Mark, Cle. (WR)	5	1	3	1	30
Culver, Rodney, Ind. (RB)	5	3	1	1	30
Fryar, Irving, Mia. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Green, Eric, Pit. (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Hoge, Merril, Pit. (FB)	5	1	4	0	30
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders (QB)	5	5	0	0	30
Johnson, Vance, Den. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Martin, Kelvin, Sea. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Metcalf, Eric, Cle. (RB/PR)	5	1	2	2	30
Slaughter, Webster, Hou. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Bernstine, Rod, Den. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Burkett, Chris, Jets (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Butts, Marion, S.D.(RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Cash, Keith, K.C. (TE)	4	0	4	0	24
Givins, Ernest, Hou. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Johnson, Johnny, Jets (RB)	4	3	1	0	24
Lewis, Nate, S.D. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
McCardell, Keenan, Cle. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Metzelaars, Pete, Buf. (TE)	4	0	4	0	24
Query, Jeff, Cin. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Russell, Derek, Den. (WR)	4	0	3	1	24
Vardell, Tommy, Cle. (FB)	4	3	1	0	24
Williams, John L., Sea. (FB)	4	3	1	0	24
Wright, Alexander, Raiders (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Beebe, Don, Buf. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Blades, Brian, Sea. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Cash, Kerry, Ind. (TE)	3	0	3	0	18
Duncan, Curtis, Hou. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Higgs, Mark, Mia. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Jett, James, Raiders (RB)	3	0	3	0	18
Langhorne, Reggie, Ind. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Martin, Tony, Mia. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
McCallum, N., Raiders (FB)	3	3	0	0	18
Milburn, Glyn, Den. (RB)	3	0	3	0	18
Mirer, Rick, Sea. (QB)	3	3	0	0	18
Stone, Dwight, Pit. (WR)	3	1	2	0	18
Thigpen, Yancey, Pit. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Thompson, Leroy, Pit. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Rivers, Reggie, Den. (FB)	2	1	1	0	*14
Birden, J.J., K.C. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Brisby, Vincent, N.E. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Carlson, Cody, Hou. (QB)	2	2	0	0	12
Edmunds, Ferrell, Sea. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D. (RB)	2	0	2	0	12
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Kinchen, Brian, Cle. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Marshall, Arthur, Den. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
McDuffie, O.J., Mia. (WR/PR)	2	0	0	2	12
McNair, Todd, K.C. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Thornton, James, Jets (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Tillman, Cedric, Den. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Timpson, Michael, N.E. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Turner, Kevin, N.E. (FB)	2	0	2	0	12
White, Lorenzo, Hou. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Duane, S.D. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Stephens, Rod, Sea. (LB)	1	0	0	1	*10
Jones, Henry, Buf. (S)	1	0	0	1	*8

*Includes one or more safeties.

PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	36	11	464	12.9	t91	2
Gordon, Darrien, S.D.	31	15	395	12.7	54	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	40	20	465	11.6	t74	1
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	28	22	317	11.3	t72	2
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	40	11	425	10.6	54	0
Carter, Dale, K.C.	27	4	247	9.1	30	0
Brown, Troy, N.E.	25	9	224	9.0	19	0
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	31	7	274	8.8	t47	1
Harris, Ronnie, N.E.	23	4	201	8.7	21	0
Martin, Kelvin, Sea.	32	15	270	8.4	33	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	42	10	338	8.0	39	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin.	43	6	305	7.1	36	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	25	605	24.2	66	0
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	32	755	23.6	48	0
Ball, Eric, Cin.	23	501	21.8	45	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	50	1050	21.0	38	0
Crittenden, Ray, N.E.	23	478	20.8	44	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	33	684	20.7	60	0
Bates, Michael, Sea.	30	603	20.1	46	0
Robinson, Patrick, Cin.	30	567	18.9	42	0
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	24	444	18.5	31	0
Copeland, Russell, Buf.	24	436	18.2	28	0
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	23	342	14.9	23	0

RUSHING

Player, Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	355	1315	3.7	27	6
Russell, Leonard, N.E.	300	1088	3.6	21	7
Warren, Chris, Sea.	273	1072	3.9	t45	7
Brown, Gary, Hou.	195	1002	5.1	26	6
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	198	821	4.1	t57	3
Bernstine, Rod, Den.	223	816	3.7	24	4
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	206	764	3.7	39	12
Thompson, Leroy, Pit.	205	763	3.7	36	3
Butts, Marion, S.D.	185	746	4.0	27	4
Foster, Barry, Pit.	177	711	4.0	38	8
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	179	711	4.0	34	0
Higgs, Mark, Mia.	186	693	3.7	31	3
Means, Natrone, S.D.	160	645	4.0	t65	8
Vardell, Tommy, Cle.	171	644	3.8	54	3
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	129	611	4.7	55	1
Robinson, Greg, Raiders	156	591	3.8	16	1
Green, Harold, Cin.	215	589	2.7	25	0
Baxter, Brad, Jets	174	559	3.2	16	7
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	121	482	4.0	26	1
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	131	465	3.5	14	2
Delpino, Robert, Den.	131	445	3.4	18	8
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	109	391	3.6	19	6
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	119	390	3.3	20	3
Williams, John L., Sea.	82	371	4.5	38	3
Mirer, Rick, Sea.	68	343	5.0	33	3
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	95	331	3.5	14	1
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	75	291	3.9	18	0
Klingler, David, Cin.	41	282	6.9	29	0
McNair, Todd, K.C.	51	278	5.5	47	2
Byars, Keith, Mia.	64	269	4.2	t77	3
Hoge, Merril, Pit.	51	249	4.9	30	1
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	52	231	4.4	26	0
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	50	231	4.6	49	0
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	56	227	4.1	30	0
Thomas, Blair, Jets	59	221	3.7	24	1
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	46	216	4.7	19	0
Hostetler, Jeff, Raiders	55	202	3.7	19	5
Croom, Corey, N.E.	60	198	3.3	22	1
Bell, Nick, Raiders	67	180	2.7	12	1
Murrell, Adrian, Jets	34	157	4.6	t37	1
Smith, Steve, Raiders	47	156	3.3	13	0
Elway, John, Den.	44	153	3.5	18	0
Vaughn, Jon, Sea.	36	153	4.3	37	0
Culver, Rodney, Ind.	65	150	2.3	9	3
Gash, Sam, N.E.	48	149	3.1	14	1
Williams, Harvey, K.C.	42	149	3.5	19	0
Moon, Warren, Hou.	48	145	3.0	35	1
Bieniemy, Eric, S.D.	33	135	4.1	12	1
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	12	121	10.1	t38	1
Esiason, Boomer, Jets	45	118	2.6	17	1
McCallum, Napoleon, Raiders	37	114	3.1	14	3
O'Donnell, Neil, Pit.	26	111	4.3	27	0
Montgomery, Tyrone, Raiders	37	106	2.9	15	0
Kelly, Jim, Buf.	36	102	2.8	17	0
Tillman, Spencer, Hou.	9	94	10.4	34	0
Mitchell, Scott, Mia.	21	89	4.2	32	0
Bledsoe, Drew, N.E.	32	82	2.6	15	0
Testaverde, Vinny, Cle.	18	74	4.1	14	0
Montana, Joe, K.C.	25	64	2.6	17	0
Baldwin, Randy, Cle.	18	61	3.4	11	0
Gardner, Carwell, Buf.	20	56	2.8	8	0
Miles, Ostell, Cin.	22	56	2.5	15	1
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	5	53	10.6	33	0
Blades, Brian, Sea.	5	52	10.4	26	0
Evans, Vince, Raiders	14	51	3.6	17	0
Rivers, Reggie, Den.	15	50	3.3	14	1
Carlson, Cody, Hou.	14	41	2.9	t10	2
Schroeder, Jay, Cin.	10	41	4.1	20	0
George, Jeff, Ind.	13	39	3.0	14	0
Ball, Eric, Cin.	8	37	4.6	18	1
Humphries, Stan, S.D.	8	37	4.6	27	0
Turner, Nate, Buf.	11	36	3.3	10	0
Jones, Fred, K.C.	5	34	6.8	13	0
Jordan, Randy, Raiders	12	33	2.8	12	0
Mack, Kevin, Cle.	10	33	3.3	7	1
Secules, Scott, N.E.	8	33	4.1	13	0
Verdin, Clarence, Ind.	3	33	11.0	29	0
Worley, Tim, Pit.	10	33	3.3	8	0
Brooks, Bill, Buf.	3	30	10.0	15	0
Thompson, Ernie, K.C.	11	28	2.5	14	0
Carrier, Mark, Cle.	4	26	6.5	t15	1
Krieg, Dave, K.C.	21	24	1.1	20	0
Reed, Andre, Buf.	9	21	2.3	15	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	2	20	10.0	t17	1
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	6	19	3.2	16	0
Kosar, Bernie, Cle.	14	19	1.4	10	0
Stephens, John, K.C.	6	18	3.0	7	0
Chaffey, Pat, Jets	5	17	3.4	7	0
Parmalee, Bernie, Mia.	4	16	4.0	12	0
Query, Jeff, Cin.	2	13	6.5	8	0
Saxon, James, Mia.	5	13	2.6	9	0
Bates, Michael, Sea.	2	12	6.0	6	0
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	3	12	4.0	19	0
Stark, Rohn, Ind.	1	11	11.0	11	0
Maston, Le'Shai, Hou.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Richardson, Bucky, Hou.	2	9	4.5	11	0
Johnson, Tracy, Sea.	2	8	4.0	5	0
Brown, Tim, Raiders	2	7	3.5	14	0

RECEIVING

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Langhorne, Reggie, Ind.	85	1038	12.2	t72	3
Miller, Anthony, S.D.	84	1162	13.8	t66	7
Sharpe, Shannon, Den.	81	995	12.3	63	9
Brown, Tim, Raiders	80	1180	14.8	t71	7
Blades, Brian, Sea.	80	945	11.8	41	3
Slaughter, Webster, Hou.	77	904	11.7	41	5
Kirby, Terry, Mia.	75	874	11.7	47	3
Harmon, Ronnie, S.D.	73	671	9.2	37	2
Givins, Ernest, Hou.	68	887	13.0	t80	4
Metzelaars, Pete, Buf.	68	609	9.0	51	4
Johnson, Johnny, Jets	67	641	9.6	48	1
Jeffires, Haywood, Hou.	66	753	11.4	t66	6
Fryar, Irving, Mia.	64	1010	15.8	t65	5
Moore, Rob, Jets	64	843	13.2	51	1
Hester, Jessie, Ind.	64	835	13.0	58	1
Green, Eric, Pit.	63	942	15.0	t71	5
Metcalf, Eric, Cle.	63	539	8.6	t49	2
Byars, Keith, Mia.	61	613	10.0	27	3
Brooks, Bill, Buf.	60	714	11.9	32	5
Williams, John L., Sea.	58	450	7.8	25	1
Martin, Kelvin, Sea.	57	798	14.0	t53	5
Query, Jeff, Cin.	56	654	11.7	51	4
Johnson, Anthony, Ind.	55	443	8.1	36	0
Coates, Ben, N.E.	53	659	12.4	t54	8
Davis, Willie, K.C.	52	909	17.5	t66	7
Reed, Andre, Buf.	52	854	16.4	t65	6
Birden, J. J., K.C.	51	721	14.1	t50	2
Fenner, Derrick, Cin.	48	427	8.9	40	0
Thomas, Thurman, Buf.	48	387	8.1	37	0
Brisby, Vincent, N.E.	45	626	13.9	39	2
Russell, Derek, Den.	44	719	16.3	43	3
Ingram, Mark, Mia.	44	707	16.1	t77	6
McGee, Tony, Cin.	44	525	11.9	37	0
Bernstine, Rod, Den.	44	372	8.5	41	0
Carrier, Mark, Cle.	43	746	17.3	55	3
Pickens, Carl, Cin.	43	565	13.1	36	6
Horton, Ethan, Raiders	43	467	10.9	32	1
Cash, Kerry, Ind.	43	402	9.3	37	3
Timpson, Michael, N.E.	42	654	15.6	48	2
Jackson, Michael, Cle.	41	756	18.4	t62	8
Stone, Dwight, Pit.	41	587	14.3	44	2
Duncan, Curtis, Hou.	41	456	11.1	47	3
Burkett, Chris, Jets	40	531	13.3	77	4
Anders, Kimble, K.C.	40	326	8.2	27	1
Mitchell, Johnny, Jets	39	630	16.2	t65	6
Jackson, Keith, Mia.	39	613	15.7	t57	6
Turner, Kevin, N.E.	39	333	8.5	26	2
Graham, Jeffrey, Pit.	38	579	15.2	51	0
Lewis, Nate, S.D.	38	463	12.2	47	4
Milburn, Glyn, Den.	38	300	7.9	50	3
Thompson, Leroy, Pit.	38	259	6.8	28	0
Johnson, Vance, Den.	36	517	14.4	56	5
Hoard, Leroy, Cle.	35	351	10.0	41	0
Allen, Marcus, K.C.	34	238	7.0	t18	3
White, Lorenzo, Hou.	34	229	6.7	20	0
Jett, James, Raiders	33	771	23.4	t74	3
Hoge, Merril, Pit.	33	247	7.5	18	4
Beebe, Don, Buf.	31	504	16.3	t65	3
Wellman, Gary, Hou.	31	430	13.9	44	1
Jefferson, Shawn, S.D.	30	391	13.0	t39	2
Mills, Ernie, Pit.	29	386	13.3	30	1
Kinchen, Brian, Cle.	29	347	12.0	40	2
Marshall, Arthur, Den.	28	360	12.9	40	2
Wright, Alexander, Raiders	27	462	17.1	t68	4
Foster, Barry, Pit.	27	217	8.0	21	1
Dawkins, Sean, Ind.	26	430	16.5	68	1
Ismail, Raghib, Raiders	26	353	13.6	t43	1
Russell, Leonard, N.E.	26	245	9.4	69	0
Delpino, Robert, Den.	26	195	7.5	25	0
Potts, Roosevelt, Ind.	26	189	7.3	24	0
Mathis, Terance, Jets	24	352	14.7	46	0
Hayes, Jonathan, K.C.	24	331	13.8	49	1
Cash, Keith, K.C.	24	242	10.1	24	4
Edmunds, Ferrell, Sea.	24	239	10.0	32	2
Green, Paul, Sea.	23	178	7.7	20	1
McMurtry, Greg, N.E.	22	241	11.0	20	1
Cook, Marv, N.E.	22	154	7.0	17	1
Green, Harold, Cin.	22	115	5.2	16	0
Brown, Gary, Hou.	21	240	11.4	t38	2
Walker, Derrick, S.D.	21	212	10.1	t25	1
Davis, Kenneth, Buf.	21	95	4.5	28	0
Martin, Tony, Mia.	20	347	17.4	t80	3
Johnson, Reggie, Den.	20	243	12.2	38	1
Baxter, Brad, Jets	20	158	7.9	24	0
McDuffie, O.J., Mia.	19	197	10.4	18	0
Vardell, Tommy, Cle.	19	151	7.9	t28	1
Smith, Steve, Raiders	18	187	10.4	22	0
Tillman, Cedric, Den.	17	193	11.4	30	2
Barnett, Tim, K.C.	17	182	10.7	25	1
Thompson, Craig, Cin.	17	87	5.1	10	1

INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Robinson, Eugene, Sea.	9	80	8.9	28	0
Odomes, Nate, Buf.	9	65	7.2	25	0
Woodson, Rod, Pit.	8	138	17.3	t63	1
Robertson, Marcus, Hou.	7	137	19.6	69	0
Carrington, Darren, S.D.	7	104	14.9	28	0
Washington, Brian, Jets	6	128	21.3	t62	1
Dishman, Cris, Hou.	6	74	12.3	30	0
Lewis, Albert, K.C.	6	61	10.2	24	0
McDaniel, Terry, Raiders	5	87	17.4	t36	1
Jackson, Steve, Hou.	5	54	10.8	t22	1
Mincy, Charles, K.C.	5	44	8.8	20	0
Brown, J.B., Mia.	5	43	8.6	29	0
Turner, Eric, Cle.	5	25	5.0	19	0
Perry, Darren, Pit.	4	61	15.3	30	0
Hunter, Patrick, Sea.	4	54	13.5	34	0
Hurst, Maurice, N.E.	4	53	13.3	24	0
Buchanan, Ray, Ind.	4	45	11.3	28	0
Lake, Carnell, Pit.	4	31	7.8	26	0
Frank, Donald, S.D.	3	119	39.7	t102	1
Brim, Michael, Cin.	3	74	24.7	30	1
Talley, Darryl, Buf.	3	74	24.7	t61	1
Orlando, Bo, Hou.	3	68	22.7	t38	1
Smith, Dennis, Den.	3	57	19.0	36	0
Johnson, David, Pit.	3	51	17.0	26	0
Braxton, Tyrone, Den.	3	37	12.3	25	0
Lott, Ronnie, Jets	3	35	11.7	29	0
Gray, Carlton, Sea.	3	33	11.0	16	0
McDowell, Bubba, Hou.	3	31	10.3	13	0
Baylor, John, Ind.	3	11	3.7	7	0
Jones, Selwyn, Cle.	3	0	0.0	0	0
Wren, Darryl, N.E.	3	-7	-2.3	2	0

SACKS

Player, Team	No.
Smith, Neil, K.C.	15.0
Smith, Bruce, Buf.	14.0
Fletcher, Simon, Den.	13.5
Jones, Sean, Hou.	13.0
Greene, Kevin, Pit.	12.5
Smith, Anthony, Raiders	12.5
O'Neal, Leslie, S.D.	12.0
Pleasant, Anthony, Cle.	11.0
Cross, Jeff, Mia.	10.5
Fuller, William, Hou.	10.0
Burnett, Rob, Cle.	9.0
Childress, Ray, Hou.	9.0
Mecklenburg, Karl, Den.	9.0
Slade, Chris, N.E.	9.0
Lageman, Jeff, Jets	8.5
Tippett, Andre, N.E.	8.5
Sinclair, Mike, Sea.	8.0
Thomas, Derrick, K.C.	8.0
Townsend, Greg, Raiders	7.5
Dronett, Shane, Den.	7.0
McGlockton, Chester, Raiders	7.0
Mims, Chris, S.D.	7.0
Evans, Donald, Pit.	6.5
Kennedy, Cortez, Sea.	6.5
Lloyd, Greg, Pit.	6.0
Long, Howie, Raiders	6.0
Montgomery, Glenn, Hou.	6.0
Perry, Michael Dean, Cle.	6.0
Coleman, Marco, Mia.	5.5
Hand, Jon, Ind.	5.5
Jones, James, Cle.	5.5
Matthews, Clay, Cle.	5.5
Washington, Marvin, Jets	5.5
Bennett, Cornelius, Buf.	5.0
Cox, Bryan, Mia.	5.0
Croel, Mike, Den.	5.0
Lake, Carnell, Pit.	5.0
Stubbs, Danny, Cin.	5.0
Grossman, Burt, S.D.	4.5
Wright, Jeff, Buf.	4.5
Johnson, Mike, Cle.	4.0
Lewis, Mo, Jets	4.0
McCrary, Michael, Sea.	4.0
Williams, Alfred, Cin.	4.0

PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Sack	Yds. Lost	Rating Pts.
Elway, John, Denver	551	348	63.2	4030	7.31	25	4.5	63	10	1.8	39	293	92.8
Montana, Joe, Kansas City	298	181	60.7	2144	7.19	13	4.4	t50	7	2.3	12	61	87.4
Testaverde, Vinny, Cleveland	230	130	56.5	1797	7.81	14	6.1	t62	9	3.9	17	101	85.7
Esiason, Boomer, N.Y. Jets	473	288	60.9	3421	7.23	16	3.4	77	11	2.3	18	139	84.5
Mitchell, Scott, Miami	233	133	57.1	1773	7.61	12	5.2	t77	8	3.4	7	49	84.2
Hostetler, Jeff, L.A. Raiders	419	236	56.3	3242	7.74	14	3.3	t74	10	2.4	38	206	82.5
Kelly, Jim, Buffalo	470	288	61.3	3382	7.20	18	3.8	t65	18	3.8	25	171	79.9
O'Donnell, Neil, Pittsburgh	486	270	55.6	3208	6.60	14	2.9	t71	7	1.4	41	331	79.5
George, Jeff, Indianapolis	407	234	57.5	2526	6.21	8	2.0	t72	6	1.5	26	190	76.3
Moon, Warren, Houston	520	303	58.3	3485	6.70	21	4.0	t80	21	4.0	34	218	75.2
Friesz, John, San Diego	238	128	53.8	1402	5.89	6	2.5	t66	4	1.7	14	98	72.8
Humphries, Stan, San Diego	324	173	53.4	1981	6.11	12	3.7	t48	10	3.1	18	142	71.5
Mirer, Rick, Seattle	486	274	56.4	2833	5.83	12	2.5	t53	17	3.5	47	235	67.0
Klingler, David, Cincinnati	343	190	55.4	1935	5.64	6	1.7	51	9	2.6	40	202	66.6
Bledsoe, Drew, New England	429	214	49.9	2494	5.81	15	3.5	t54	15	3.5	16	99	65.0

PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
Montgomery, Greg, Houston	54	2462	77	45.6	54	5	0	28	249	13	39.1
Rouen, Tom, Denver	67	3017	62	45.0	68	8	1	33	337	17	37.1
Tuten, Rick, Seattle	90	4007	64	44.5	91	7	1	47	475	21	37.3
Hansen, Brian, Cleveland	82	3632	72	44.3	84	10	2	49	438	15	35.6
Johnson, Lee, Cincinnati	90	3954	60	43.9	90	12	0	47	416	24	36.6
Stark, Rohn, Indianapolis	83	3595	65	43.3	83	13	0	41	352	18	35.9
Barker, Bryan, Kansas City	76	3240	59	42.6	77	8	1	43	352	19	35.4
Kidd, John, San Diego	57	2431	67	42.6	57	7	0	28	243	16	35.9
Royals, Mark, Pittsburgh	89	3781	61	42.5	89	3	0	50	678	28	34.2
Saxon, Mike, New England	73	3096	59	42.4	76	7	3	34	313	25	34.8
Gossett, Jeff, L.A. Raiders	71	2971	61	41.8	71	9	0	35	301	19	35.1
Mohr, Chris, Buffalo	74	2991	58	40.4	74	4	0	29	247	19	36.0
Hatcher, Dale, Miami	58	2304	56	39.7	58	4	0	32	359	13	32.2
Aguiar, Louie, N.Y. Jets	73	2806	71	38.4	73	7	0	26	156	21	34.4

1993 NFC STATISTICAL LEADERS

SCORING

KICKERS

Player, Team	XP Made	XP Att.	FG Made	FG Att.	Tot. Pts.
Hanson, Jason, Det.	28	28	34	43	130
Jacke, Chris, G.B.	35	35	31	37	128
Murray, Eddie, Dal.	38	38	28	33	122
Andersen, Morten, N.O.	33	33	28	35	117
Johnson, Norm, Atl.	34	34	26	27	112
Cofer, Mike, S.F.	59	61	16	26	107
Reveiz, Fuad, Min.	27	28	26	35	105
Treadwell, David, Giants	28	29	25	31	103
Butler, Kevin, Chi.	21	22	27	36	102
Davis, Greg, Pho.	37	37	21	28	100
Husted, Michael, T.B.	27	27	16	22	75
Lohmiller, Chip, Was.	24	26	16	28	72
Zendejas, Tony, Rams	23	25	16	23	71
Ruzek, Roger, Phi.	13	16	8	10	37
Bahr, Matt, N.E.	10	10	5	5	25
Elliott, Lin, Dal.	2	3	2	4	8
Daluiso, Brad, Giants	0	0	1	3	3

NON-KICKERS

Player, Team	Total TD	Rush TD	Rec. TD	Misc. TD	Tot. Pts.
Rice, Jerry, S.F. (WR)	16	1	15	0	96
Rison, Andre, Atl. (WR)	15	0	15	0	90
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B. (WR)	11	0	11	0	66
Watters, Ricky, S.F. (RB)	11	10	1	0	66
Bennett, Edgar, G.B. (RB)	10	9	1	0	60
Smith, Emmitt, Dal. (RB)	10	9	1	0	60
Williams, Calvin, Phi. (WR)	10	0	10	0	60
Carter, Cris, Min. (WR)	9	0	9	0	54
Moore, Ron, Pho. (RB)	9	9	0	0	54
Bettis, Jerome, Rams (RB)	7	7	0	0	42
Irvin, Michael, Dal. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Logan, Marc, S.F. (FB)	7	7	0	0	42
Pritchard, Mike, Atl. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Proehl, Ricky, Pho. (WR)	7	0	7	0	42
Bavaro, Mark, Phi. (TE)	6	0	6	0	36
Early, Quinn, N.O. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Moore, Herman, Det. (WR)	6	0	6	0	36
Williams, Kevin, Dal. (WR/PR)	6	2	2	2	36
Carter, Anthony, Min. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Cross, Howard, Giants (TE)	5	0	5	0	30
Hampton, Rodney, Giants (RB)	5	5	0	0	30
Harper, Alvin, Dal. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Taylor, John, S.F. (WR)	5	0	5	0	30
Allen, Eric, Phi. (CB)	4	0	0	4	24
Anderson, Neal, Chi. (RB)	4	4	0	0	24
Anderson, Willie, Rams (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Clark, Gary, Pho. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Cobb, Reggie, T.B. (RB)	4	3	1	0	24
Copeland, Horace, T.B. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Drayton, Troy, Rams (TE)	4	0	4	0	24
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi. (QB)	4	4	0	0	24
Harris, Jackie, G.B. (TE)	4	0	4	0	24
Haynes, Michael, Atl. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Hill, Randal, Pho. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Jackson, Mark, Giants (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Johnston, Daryl, Dal. (FB)	4	3	1	0	24
Moore, Derrick, Det. (RB)	4	3	1	0	24
Sanders, Ricky, Was. (WR)	4	0	4	0	24
Walker, Herschel, Phi. (RB)	4	1	3	0	24
Workman, Vince, T.B. (RB)	4	2	2	0	24
Brooks, Reggie, Was. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Brown, Derek, N.O. (RB)	3	2	1	0	18
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants (FB)	3	2	1	0	18
Calloway, Chris, Giants (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Centers, Larry, Pho. (RB)	3	0	3	0	18
Clayton, Mark, G.B. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Graham, Scottie, Min. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Hebron, Vaughn, Phi. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O. (RB)	3	2	1	0	18
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O. (CB)	3	0	0	3	18
Jones, Brent, S.F. (TE)	3	0	3	0	18
Lassic, Derrick, Dal. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Lee, Amp, S.F. (RB)	3	1	2	0	18
Martin, Eric, N.O. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
McGee, Tim, Was. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Mitchell, Brian, Was. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Muster, Brad, N.O. (FB)	3	3	0	0	18
Obee, Terry, Chi. (WR)	3	0	3	0	18
Pegram, Erric, Atl. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Rathman, Tom, S.F. (FB)	3	3	0	0	18
Rypien, Mark, Was. (QB)	3	3	0	0	18
Sanders, Barry, Det. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Thompson, Darrell, G.B. (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Tillman, Lewis, Giants (RB)	3	3	0	0	18
Bailey, Johnny, Pho. (RB/PR)	2	1	0	1	12
Baker, Myron, Chi. (LB)	2	0	0	2	12
Carter, Dexter, S.F. (RB/PR)	2	1	0	1	12
Clay, Willie, Det. (CB)	2	0	0	2	12
Coleman, Lincoln, Dal. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Conway, Curtis, Chi. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Craig, Roger, Min. (RB)	2	1	1	0	12
Davis, Eric, S.F. (CB)	2	0	0	2	12
Ellard, Henry, Rams (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Gary, Cle., Rams (RB)	2	1	1	0	12
Green, Willie, Det. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Hallock, Ty, Det. (LB)	2	0	2	0	12
Holman, Rodney, Det. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Jones, Ernie, Rams (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Lynch, Eric, Det. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
McCaffrey, Ed, Giants (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Middleton, Ron, Was. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Monk, Art, Was. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Novacek, Jay, Dal. (TE)	2	1	1	0	12
Perriman, Brett, Det. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Sherman, Heath, Phi. (FB)	2	2	0	0	12
Sherrard, Mike, Giants (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, Irv, N.O. (TE)	2	0	2	0	12
Smith, Robert, Min. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Thomas, Lamar, T.B. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Williams, Aeneas, Pho. (CB)	2	0	0	2	12
Word, Barry, Min. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Worley, Tim, Chi. (RB)	2	2	0	0	12
Young, Mike, Phi. (WR)	2	0	2	0	12
Young, Steve, S.F. (QB)	2	2	0	0	12

PUNT RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	37	21	503	13.6	t83	2
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	34	20	411	12.1	t72	1
Williams, Kevin, Dal.	36	14	381	10.6	t64	2
Meggett, David, Giants	32	20	331	10.3	t75	1
Gray, Mel, Det.	23	14	197	8.6	35	0
Obee, Terry, Chi.	35	20	289	8.3	28	0
Sikahema, Vai, Phi.	33	20	275	8.3	25	0
Bailey, Johnny, Pho.	35	5	282	8.1	t58	1
Smith, Tony, Atl.	32	17	255	8.0	51	0
Guliford, Eric, Min.	29	15	212	7.3	50	0
Mitchell, Brian, Was.	29	7	193	6.7	48	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	23	611	26.6	t95	1
Hughes, Tyrone, N.O.	30	753	25.1	t99	1
Smith, Tony, Atl.	38	948	24.9	t97	1
Gray, Mel, Det.	28	688	24.6	t95	1
Bailey, Johnny, Pho.	31	699	22.5	48	0
Williams, Kevin, Dal.	31	689	22.2	49	0
Ismail, Qadry, Min.	42	902	21.5	47	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	21	450	21.4	55	0
McAfee, Fred, N.O.	28	580	20.7	55	0
Mitchell, Brian, Was.	33	678	20.5	68	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	t25	494	19.8	60	0

RUSHING

Player, Team	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Smith, Emmitt, Dal.	283	1486	5.3	t62	9
Bettis, Jerome, Rams	294	1429	4.9	t71	7
Pegram, Erric, Atl.	292	1185	4.1	29	3
Sanders, Barry, Det.	243	1115	4.6	42	3
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	292	1077	3.7	20	5
Brooks, Reggie, Was.	223	1063	4.8	t85	3
Moore, Ron, Pho.	263	1018	3.9	20	9
Watters, Ricky, S.F.	208	950	4.6	39	10
Walker, Herschel, Phi.	174	746	4.3	35	1
Brown, Derek, N.O.	180	705	3.9	60	2
Cobb, Reggie, T.B.	221	658	3.0	16	3
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	169	654	3.9	t60	3
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	202	646	3.2	45	4
Tillman, Lewis, Giants	121	585	4.8	58	3
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	159	550	3.5	19	9
Graham, Scottie, Min.	118	488	4.1	31	3
Word, Barry, Min.	142	458	3.2	14	2
Worley, Tim, Chi.	110	437	4.0	28	2
Young, Steve, S.F.	69	407	5.9	35	2
Sherman, Heath, Phi.	115	406	3.5	19	2
Moore, Derrick, Det.	88	405	4.6	48	3
Smith, Robert, Min.	82	399	4.9	t26	2
Meggett, David, Giants	69	329	4.8	23	0
Hebron, Vaughn, Phi.	84	297	3.5	33	3
Gary, Cle., Rams	79	293	3.7	15	1
Workman, Vince, T.B.	78	284	3.6	21	2
Logan, Marc, S.F.	58	280	4.8	45	7
Harbaugh, Jim, Chi.	60	277	4.6	25	4
Lassic, Derrick, Dal.	75	269	3.6	15	3
Hearst, Garrison, Pho.	76	264	3.5	57	1
Bailey, Johnny, Pho.	49	253	5.2	31	1
Mitchell, Brian, Was.	63	246	3.9	t29	3
Lee, Amp, S.F.	72	230	3.2	13	1
Wilson, Wade, N.O.	31	230	7.4	44	0
Favre, Brett, G.B.	58	216	3.7	27	1
Muster, Brad, N.O.	64	214	3.3	18	3
Lynch, Eric, Det.	53	207	3.9	15	2
Broussard, Steven, Atl.	39	206	5.3	26	1
Heyward, Craig, Chi.	68	206	3.0	11	0
Ervins, Ricky, Was.	50	201	4.0	18	0
Neal, Lorenzo, N.O.	21	175	8.3	t74	1
Stephens, John, G.B.	48	173	3.6	22	1
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	50	165	3.3	16	2
Peete, Rodney, Det.	45	165	3.7	28	1
McAfee, Fred, N.O.	51	160	3.1	27	1
Centers, Larry, Pho.	25	152	6.1	33	0
Joseph, James, Phi.	39	140	3.6	12	0
Coleman, Lincoln, Dal.	34	132	3.9	16	2
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	33	128	3.9	13	2
Aikman, Troy, Dal.	32	125	3.9	20	0
Craig, Roger, Min.	38	119	3.1	11	1
Royster, Mazio, T.B.	33	115	3.5	19	1
Cunningham, Randall, Phi.	18	110	6.1	26	1
Byner, Earnest, Was.	23	105	4.6	16	1
Rubley, T. J., Rams	29	102	3.5	13	0
Erickson, Craig, T.B.	26	96	3.7	15	0
McMahon, Jim, Min.	33	96	2.9	16	0
Dickerson, Eric, Atl.	26	91	3.5	10	0
Gannon, Rich, Was.	21	88	4.2	12	1
Rathman, Tom, S.F.	19	80	4.2	19	3
Johnston, Daryl, Dal.	24	74	3.1	11	3
Lester, Tim, Rams	11	74	6.7	26	0
Carter, Dexter, S.F.	10	72	7.2	t50	1
Ned, Derrick, N.O.	9	71	7.9	t35	1
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	3	69	23.0	t43	1
Anderson, Gary, T.B.	28	56	2.0	13	0
Hebert, Bobby, Atl.	24	49	2.0	14	0
Tolliver, Billy Joe, Atl.	7	48	6.9	24	0
Proehl, Ricky, Pho.	8	47	5.9	17	0
Beuerlein, Steve, Pho.	22	45	2.0	20	0
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	5	44	8.8	18	0
Rasheed, Kenyon, Giants	9	42	4.7	t23	1
Brister, Bubby, Phi.	20	39	2.0	13	0
Everett, Jim, Rams	19	38	2.0	14	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	3	34	11.3	22	0
Early, Quinn, N.O.	2	32	16.0	26	0
Evans, Chuck, Min.	14	32	2.3	5	0
Simms, Phil, Giants	28	31	1.1	9	0

RECEIVING

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Sharpe, Sterling, G.B.	112	1274	11.4	54	11
Rice, Jerry, S.F.	98	1503	15.3	t80	15
Irvin, Michael, Dal.	88	1330	15.1	t61	7
Rison, Andre, Atl.	86	1242	14.4	t53	15
Carter, Cris, Min.	86	1071	12.5	58	9
Walker, Herschel, Phi.	75	610	8.1	55	3
Pritchard, Mike, Atl.	74	736	9.9	34	7
Haynes, Michael, Atl.	72	778	10.8	t98	4
Jones, Brent, S.F.	68	735	10.8	29	3
Martin, Eric, N.O.	66	950	14.4	t54	3
Centers, Larry, Pho.	66	603	9.1	29	3
Proehl, Ricky, Pho.	65	877	13.5	t51	7
Clark, Gary, Pho.	63	818	13.0	55	4
Hawkins, Courtney, T.B.	62	933	15.0	67	5
Ellard, Henry, Rams	61	945	15.5	54	2
Moore, Herman, Det.	61	935	15.3	t93	6
Carter, Anthony, Min.	60	775	12.9	39	5
Williams, Calvin, Phi.	60	725	12.1	t80	10
Bennett, Edgar, G.B.	59	457	7.7	t39	1
Jackson, Mark, Giants	58	708	12.2	t40	4
Sanders, Ricky, Was.	58	638	11.0	50	4
Smith, Emmitt, Dal.	57	414	7.3	86	1
Taylor, John, S.F.	56	940	16.8	t76	5
Jordan, Steve, Min.	56	542	9.7	53	1
Workman, Vince, T.B.	54	411	7.6	t42	2
Johnston, Daryl, Dal.	50	372	7.4	20	1
Perriman, Brett, Det.	49	496	10.1	34	2
Early, Quinn, N.O.	45	670	14.9	t63	6
Waddle, Tom, Chi.	44	552	12.5	38	1
Novacek, Jay, Dal.	44	445	10.1	30	1
Bavaro, Mark, Phi.	43	481	11.2	27	6
Harris, Jackie, G.B.	42	604	14.4	t66	4
Bailey, Victor, Phi.	41	545	13.3	58	1
Monk, Art, Was.	41	398	9.7	29	2
Hilliard, Dalton, N.O.	40	296	7.4	34	1
McGee, Tim, Was.	39	500	12.8	54	3
Meggett, David, Giants	38	319	8.4	50	0
Anderson, Willie, Rams	37	552	14.9	t56	4
Logan, Marc, S.F.	37	348	9.4	24	0
Harper, Alvin, Dal.	36	777	21.6	t80	5
Gary, Cle., Rams	36	289	8.0	t60	1
Sanders, Barry, Det.	36	205	5.7	17	0
Hill, Randal, Pho.	35	519	14.8	t58	4
Calloway, Chris, Giants	35	513	14.7	47	3
Hill, Drew, Atl.	34	384	11.3	30	0
Pegram, Eric, Atl.	33	302	9.2	30	0
Clayton, Mark, G.B.	32	331	10.3	32	3
Bailey, Johnny, Pho.	32	243	7.6	30	0
Watters, Ricky, S.F.	31	326	10.5	t48	1
Anderson, Neal, Chi.	31	160	5.2	35	0
Copeland, Horace, T.B.	30	633	21.1	t67	4
Joseph, James, Phi.	29	291	10.0	48	1
Green, Willie, Det.	28	462	16.5	47	2
McCaffrey, Ed, Giants	27	335	12.4	31	2
Drayton, Troy, Rams	27	319	11.8	27	4
Byner, Earnest, Was.	27	194	7.2	20	0
Obee, Terry, Chi.	26	351	13.5	48	3
Bettis, Jerome, Rams	26	244	9.4	28	0
West, Ed, G.B.	25	253	10.1	24	0
Holman, Rodney, Det.	25	244	9.8	t28	2
Sherrard, Mike, Giants	24	433	18.0	t55	2
Middleton, Ron, Was.	24	154	6.4	18	2
Smith, Robert, Min.	24	111	4.6	12	0
Howard, Desmond, Was.	23	286	12.4	27	0
Hall, Ron, T.B.	23	268	11.7	t37	1
Muster, Brad, N.O.	23	195	8.5	31	0
Cross, Howard, Giants	21	272	13.0	32	5
Brooks, Reggie, Was.	21	186	8.9	43	0
Brown, Derek, N.O.	21	170	8.1	19	1
Moore, Derrick, Det.	21	169	8.0	20	1
Brooks, Robert, G.B.	20	180	9.0	25	0
Mitchell, Brian, Was.	20	157	7.9	18	0
Williams, Kevin, Dal.	20	151	7.6	33	2
Conway, Curtis, Chi.	19	231	12.2	t38	2
Ismail, Qadry, Min.	19	212	11.2	37	1
Craig, Roger, Min.	19	169	8.9	31	1
Hampton, Rodney, Giants	18	210	11.7	62	0
Lester, Tim, Rams	18	154	8.6	21	0
Thompson, Darrell, G.B.	18	129	7.2	34	0
Barnett, Fred, Phi.	17	170	10.0	21	0
Smith, Irv, N.O.	16	180	11.3	23	2
Small, Torrance, N.O.	16	164	10.3	17	1
Christian, Bob, Chi.	16	160	10.0	36	0
Heyward, Craig, Chi.	16	132	8.3	20	0
Williams, Jamie, S.F.	16	132	8.3	15	1
Ervins, Ricky, Was.	16	123	7.7	20	0
Lee, Amp, S.F.	16	115	7.2	22	2
Wycheck, Frank, Was.	16	113	7.1	20	0
Wilson, Charles, T.B.	15	225	15.0	24	0
Dawsey, Lawrence, T.B.	15	203	13.5	24	0
Tennell, Derek, Min.	15	122	8.1	17	0
Young, Mike, Phi.	14	186	13.3	t49	2
Lofton, James, Rams-Phi.	14	183	13.1	32	0
Carter, Pat, Rams	14	166	11.9	38	1
Jennings, Keith, Chi.	14	150	10.7	29	0
Edwards, Anthony, Pho.	13	326	25.1	t65	1
Bunch, Jarrod, Giants	13	98	7.5	15	1
Lynch, Eric, Det.	13	82	6.3	11	0
Green, Robert, Chi.	13	63	4.8	9	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Player, Team	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Sanders, Deion, Atl.	7	91	13.0	41	0
Allen, Eric, Phi.	6	201	33.5	t94	4
Butler, LeRoy, G.B.	6	131	21.8	39	0
Smith, Kevin, Dal.	6	56	9.3	t32	1
Carter, Tom, Was.	6	54	9.0	29	0
McGruder, Michael, S.F.	5	89	17.8	37	1
Glenn, Vencie, Min.	5	49	9.8	23	0
Carrier, Mark, Chi.	4	94	23.5	t34	1
Collins, Mark, Giants	4	77	19.3	t50	1
Jones, Dante, Chi.	4	52	13.0	22	0
Davis, Eric, S.F.	4	45	11.3	t41	1
McMillian, Audray, Min.	4	45	11.3	t22	1
Jackson, Greg, Giants	4	32	8.0	29	0
Miano, Rich, Phi.	4	26	6.5	16	0
Green, Darrell, Was.	4	10	2.5	6	0
Del Rio, Jack, Min.	4	3	0.8	3	0
Lincoln, Jeremy, Chi.	3	109	36.3	t80	1
Hanks, Merton, S.F.	3	104	34.7	t67	1
Atkins, Gene, N.O.	3	59	19.7	37	0
King, Joe, T.B.	3	29	9.7	28	0
McDonald, Tim, S.F.	3	23	7.7	21	0
Lee, Carl, Min.	3	20	6.7	19	0
Swilling, Pat, Det.	3	16	5.3	14	0
Lynch, Lorenzo, Pho.	3	13	4.3	13	0
Walker, Darnell, Atl.	3	7	2.3	7	0
Griffin, Don, S.F.	3	6	2.0	3	0

SACKS

Player, Team	No.
Turnbull, Renaldo, N.O.	13.0
White, Reggie, G.B.	13.0
Dent, Richard, Chi.	12.5
Doleman, Chris, Min.	12.5
Randle, John, Min.	12.5
Armstrong, Trace, Chi.	11.5
Hamilton, Keith, Giants	11.5
Harmon, Andy, Phi.	11.5
Jackson, Rickey, N.O.	11.5
Paup, Bryce, G.B.	11.0
Gilbert, Sean, Rams	10.5
Stubblefield, Dana, S.F.	10.5
Harvey, Ken, Pho.	9.5
Stokes, Fred, Rams	9.5
Thomas, Henry, Min.	9.0
Porcher, Robert, Det.	8.5
Seals, Ray, T.B.	8.5
Scroggins, Tracy, Det.	8.0
Tolbert, Tony, Dal.	7.5
Young, Robert, Rams	7.0
Zorich, Chris, Chi.	7.0
Bennett, Tony, G.B.	6.5
Holt, Pierce, Atl.	6.5
Miller, Corey, Giants	6.5
Nunn, Freddie Joe, Pho.	6.5
Swilling, Pat, Det.	6.5
Thomas, William, Phi.	6.5
Barker, Roy, Min.	6.0
Coleman, Monte, Was.	6.0
Collins, Andre, Was.	6.0
Harrison, Martin, S.F.	6.0
Jeffcoat, Jim, Dal.	6.0
McMichael, Steve, Chi.	6.0
Taylor, Lawrence, Giants	6.0
Brown, Dennis, S.F.	5.5
Jones, Jimmie, Dal.	5.5
Jurkovic, John, G.B.	5.5
Wilson, Troy, S.F.	5.5
Curry, Eric, T.B.	5.0
Dotson, Santana, T.B.	5.0
Johnson, Vaughan, N.O.	5.0
Martin, Wayne, N.O.	5.0
Simmons, Clyde, Phi.	5.0
Fox, Mike, Giants	4.5
Palmer, Sterling, Was.	4.5

PASSING

Player, Team	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Sack	Yds. Lost	Rating Pts.
Young, Steve, San Francisco	462	314	68.0	4023	8.71	29	6.3	t80	16	3.5	31	160	101.5
Aikman, Troy, Dallas	392	271	69.1	3100	7.91	15	3.8	t80	6	1.5	26	153	99.0
Simms, Phil, N.Y. Giants	400	247	61.8	3038	7.60	15	3.8	62	9	2.3	37	217	88.3
Brister, Bubby, Philadelphia	309	181	58.6	1905	6.17	14	4.5	58	5	1.6	19	148	84.9
Hebert, Bobby, Atlanta	430	263	61.2	2978	6.93	24	5.6	t98	17	4.0	29	190	84.0
Beuerlein, Steve, Phoenix	418	258	61.7	3164	7.57	18	4.3	t65	17	4.1	29	206	82.5
McMahon, Jim, Minnesota	331	200	60.4	1968	5.95	9	2.7	58	8	2.4	23	104	76.2
Favre, Brett, Green Bay	522	318	60.9	3303	6.33	19	3.6	t66	24	4.6	30	199	72.2
Harbaugh, Jim, Chicago	325	200	61.5	2002	6.16	7	2.2	48	11	3.4	43	210	72.1
Wilson, Wade, New Orleans	388	221	57.0	2457	6.33	12	3.1	t42	15	3.9	37	225	70.1
Peete, Rodney, Detroit	252	157	62.3	1670	6.63	6	2.4	t93	14	5.6	34	174	66.4
Erickson, Craig, Tampa Bay	457	233	51.0	3054	6.68	18	3.9	t67	21	4.6	35	236	66.4
Everett, Jim, L.A. Rams	274	135	49.3	1652	6.03	8	2.9	t60	12	4.4	18	125	59.7
Rypien, Mark, Washington	319	166	52.0	1514	4.75	4	1.3	43	10	3.1	16	87	56.3

PUNTING

Player, Team	Net Punts	Yards	Long	Avg.	Total Punts	TB	Blk.	Opp. Ret.	Ret. Yds.	In 20	Net Avg.
Arnold, Jim, Detroit	72	3207	68	44.5	72	9	0	45	377	15	36.8
Roby, Reggie, Washington	78	3447	60	44.2	78	10	0	31	343	25	37.2
Camarillo, Rich, Phoenix	73	3189	61	43.7	73	8	0	30	267	23	37.8
Barnhardt, T., New Orleans	77	3356	58	43.6	77	6	0	36	348	26	37.5
Landeta, Sean, L.A. Rams	42	1825	9	43.5	42	7	0	25	304	7	32.9
Alexander, Harold, Atlanta	72	3114	75	43.3	72	3	0	41	350	21	37.6
Newsome, Harry, Minnesota	90	3862	64	42.9	90	6	0	46	560	25	35.4
Wagner, Bryan, Green Bay	74	3174	60	42.9	74	7	0	38	350	19	36.3
Horan, Mike, N.Y. Giants	44	1882	60	42.8	44	1	0	25	107	13	39.9
Jett, John, Dallas	56	2342	59	41.8	56	3	0	32	169	22	37.7
Wilmsmeyer, K., San Francisco	42	1718	61	40.9	42	5	0	15	171	11	34.5
Stryzinski, Dan, Tampa Bay	93	3772	57	40.6	94	3	1	53	394	24	35.3
Feagles, Jeff, Philadelphia	83	3323	60	40.0	83	4	0	35	311	31	35.3
Gardocki, Chris, Chicago	80	3080	58	38.5	80	2	0	22	115	28	36.6

1994 SCHEDULE

PRESEASON

(All times local, except Tokyo, Barcelona and Berlin are Eastern)

WEEK 1

SATURDAY, JULY 30

Miami at N.Y. Giants	8:00
Atlanta vs. San Diego at Canton, O.*	12:00

*Hall of Fame Game.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Denver vs. L.A. Raiders at Barcelona	1:00
Houston at Kansas City	8:00
Minnesota at Dallas	8:00

WEEK 2

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

New Orleans at New England	8:00
N.Y. Jets at Detroit	7:30
Philadelphia at Chicago	7:00
San Francisco at Arizona	6:30
Seattle at Indianapolis	7:30

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Kansas City vs. Minnesota at Tokyo (Aug. 7)	10:00
Atlanta at Denver	7:00
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay	7:30
Cleveland at N.Y. Giants	8:00
Houston vs. San Diego at San Antonio, Tex.	7:00
L.A. Rams vs. Green Bay at Madison, Wis.	12:00
Pittsburgh at Miami	8:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

L.A. Raiders at Dallas	8:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 8

Washington at Buffalo	8:00

WEEK 3

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Denver at San Francisco	5:00
Buffalo at Atlanta	7:00
Kansas City at Washington	8:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

N.Y. Giants vs. San Diego at Berlin	1:30
Chicago at Arizona	6:00
Detroit at Cleveland	7:30
Indianapolis at Cincinnati	7:30
L.A. Raiders at Pittsburgh	6:00
Miami vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	7:00
New England at L.A. Rams	7:00
New Orleans at Minnesota	7:00
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia	7:30
Tampa Bay at Seattle	6:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Dallas vs. Houston at Mexico City	9:00

WEEK 4

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

San Francisco at San Diego	5:00
Washington at New England	7:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Arizona at Detroit	7:30
Atlanta at Cleveland	7:30
Green Bay at New Orleans	7:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Buffalo vs. Houston at San Antonio, Tex.	7:00
Cincinnati at Philadelphia	7:30
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh	6:00
L.A. Raiders at L.A. Rams	7:00
Minnesota at Seattle	7:00
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets	8:00
Tampa Bay at Miami	8:00

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Denver at Dallas	7:00

MONDAY, AUGUST 22

Chicago at Kansas City	7:00

WEEK 5

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Arizona at Denver	7:00
Cleveland at Indianapolis	7:30
Dallas at New Orleans	7:00
L.A. Rams at San Diego	7:00

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Detroit at Cincinnati	7:30
Kansas City at Buffalo	8:00
Miami at Minnesota	7:00
New England at Green Bay	7:00
N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay	7:30
Philadelphia at Atlanta	7:00
Pittsburgh at Washington	8:00
Seattle at San Francisco	6:00

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

L.A. Raiders at Houston	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Chicago	7:00

REGULAR SEASON

(All times local)

WEEK 1

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Atlanta at Detroit	1:00
Cleveland at Cincinnati	1:00
Houston at Indianapolis	12:00
Kansas City at New Orleans	12:00
Minnesota at Green Bay	12:00
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Seattle at Washington	1:00
Tampa Bay at Chicago	12:00
Arizona at L.A. Rams	1:00
Dallas at Pittsburgh	4:00
New England at Miami	4:00
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo	4:00
San Diego at Denver	6:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

L.A. Raiders at San Francisco	6:00

WEEK 2

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Buffalo at New England	1:00
Detroit at Minnesota	12:00
Indianapolis at Tampa Bay	1:00
L.A. Rams at Atlanta	1:00
Miami vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Pittsburgh at Cleveland	1:00
San Francisco at Kansas City	12:00
Cincinnati at San Diego	1:00
Denver at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Houston at Dallas	3:00
Seattle at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Washington at New Orleans	3:00
N.Y. Giants at Arizona	5:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Chicago at Philadelphia	9:00

WEEK 3

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Arizona at Cleveland	1:00
Buffalo at Houston	12:00
Green Bay at Philadelphia	1:00
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh	1:00
Minnesota at Chicago	12:00
New England at Cincinnati	1:00
New Orleans at Tampa Bay	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Miami	1:00
L.A. Raiders at Denver	2:00
San Diego at Seattle	1:00
San Francisco at L.A. Rams	1:00
Washington at N.Y. Giants	4:00
Kansas City at Atlanta	8:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Detroit at Dallas	8:00

WEEK 4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Atlanta at Washington	1:00
Cleveland at Indianapolis	12:00
L.A. Rams at Kansas City	12:00
Miami at Minnesota	12:00
Tampa Bay at Green Bay	12:00
Cincinnati at Houston	3:00
New England at Detroit	4:00
New Orleans at San Francisco	1:00
Pittsburgh at Seattle	1:00
San Diego at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Chicago at N.Y. Jets	8:00

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Denver at Buffalo	9:00

Open date: Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia

WEEK 5

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Dallas at Washington	1:00
Detroit at Tampa Bay	1:00
Green Bay at New England	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland	1:00
Seattle at Indianapolis	12:00
Atlanta at L.A. Rams	1:00
Buffalo at Chicago	3:00
Minnesota at Arizona	1:00
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans	3:00
Philadelphia at San Francisco	1:00
Miami at Cincinnati	8:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Houston at Pittsburgh	9:00

Open date: Denver, Kansas City, L.A. Raiders, San Diego

WEEK 6

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets	1:00
L.A. Rams at Green Bay	12:00
Miami at Buffalo	1:00
New Orleans at Chicago	12:00
San Francisco at Detroit	1:00
Tampa Bay at Atlanta	1:00
Arizona at Dallas	3:00
Denver at Seattle	1:00
Kansas City at San Diego	1:00
L.A. Raiders at New England	4:00
Washington at Philadelphia	8:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Minnesota at N.Y. Giants	9:00

Open date: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburgh

WEEK 7

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Cleveland at Houston	8:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

Arizona at Washington	1:00
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh	1:00
Indianapolis at Buffalo	1:00
L.A. Raiders at Miami	1:00
New England at N.Y. Jets	1:00
San Francisco at Atlanta	1:00
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Rams	1:00
Philadelphia at Dallas	3:00
San Diego at New Orleans	3:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

Kansas City at Denver	7:00

Open date: Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota, Seattle, Tampa Bay

WEEK 8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

Green Bay at Minnesota	7:00

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

Chicago at Detroit	1:00
Cincinnati at Cleveland	1:00
L.A. Rams at New Orleans	12:00
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Seattle at Kansas City	12:00
Washington at Indianapolis	12:00
Atlanta at L.A. Raiders	1:00
Dallas at Arizona	1:00
Denver at San Diego	1:00
Tampa Bay at San Francisco	1:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

Houston at Philadelphia	9:00

Open date: Buffalo, Miami, New England, N.Y. Jets

WEEK 9

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Dallas at Cincinnati	1:00
Detroit at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Kansas City at Buffalo	1:00
Miami at New England	1:00
Philadelphia at Washington	1:00
Cleveland at Denver	2:00
Houston at L.A. Raiders	1:00

Minnesota at Tampa Bay	4:00
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis	4:00
Seattle at San Diego	1:00
Pittsburgh at Arizona	6:00
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31	
Green Bay at Chicago	8:00

Open date: Atlanta, L.A. Rams, New Orleans, San Francisco

WEEK 10

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Chicago at Tampa Bay	1:00
Detroit vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Indianapolis at Miami	1:00
New England at Cleveland	1:00
New Orleans at Minnesota	12:00
Pittsburgh at Houston	12:00
San Diego at Atlanta	1:00
San Francisco at Washington	1:00
Arizona at Philadelphia	4:00
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets	4:00
Cincinnati at Seattle	1:00
Denver at L.A. Rams	1:00
L.A. Raiders at Kansas City	7:00
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7	
N.Y. Giants at Dallas	8:00

WEEK 11

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Arizona at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Atlanta at New Orleans	12:00
Chicago at Miami	1:00
Cleveland at Philadelphia	1:00
Houston at Cincinnati	1:00
Minnesota at New England	1:00
San Diego at Kansas City	12:00
Dallas at San Francisco	1:00
L.A. Raiders at L.A. Rams	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Green Bay	3:00
Seattle at Denver	2:00
Tampa Bay at Detroit	8:00
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14	
Buffalo at Pittsburgh	9:00

Open date: Indianapolis, Washington

WEEK 12

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Cleveland at Kansas City	12:00
Detroit at Chicago	12:00
Green Bay at Buffalo	1:00
Indianapolis at Cincinnati	1:00
Miami at Pittsburgh	1:00
San Diego at New England	1:00
Washington at Dallas	12:00
Atlanta at Denver	2:00
New Orleans at L.A. Raiders	1:00
N.Y. Jets at Minnesota	3:00
Philadelphia at Arizona	2:00
Tampa Bay at Seattle	1:00
L.A. Rams at San Francisco	5:00
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21	
N.Y. Giants at Houston	8:00

WEEK 13

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Buffalo at Detroit	12:30
Green Bay at Dallas	3:00
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27	
Houston at Cleveland	1:00
Miami at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Philadelphia at Atlanta	1:00
Tampa Bay at Minnesota	12:00
Chicago at Arizona	2:00
Cincinnati at Denver	2:00
Kansas City at Seattle	1:00
L.A. Rams at San Diego	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Washington	4:00
Pittsburgh at L.A. Raiders	1:00
New England at Indianapolis	8:00
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28	
San Francisco at New Orleans	8:00

WEEK 14

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

Chicago at Minnesota	8:00
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4	
Dallas at Philadelphia	1:00
Green Bay at Detroit	1:00
N.Y. Jets at New England	1:00
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati	1:00
Washington at Tampa Bay	1:00
Arizona at Houston	3:00
Atlanta at San Francisco	1:00
Denver at Kansas City	3:00
Indianapolis at Seattle	1:00
New Orleans at L.A. Rams	1:00
N.Y. Giants at Cleveland	4:00
Buffalo at Miami	8:00
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5	
L.A. Raiders at San Diego	6:00

WEEK 15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Detroit at N.Y. Jets	12:30
Cleveland at Dallas	3:00
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11	
Chicago at Green Bay	12:00
Cincinnati at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Indianapolis at New England	1:00
L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay	1:00
Minnesota at Buffalo	1:00
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	1:00
Denver at L.A. Raiders	1:00
San Francisco at San Diego	1:00
Seattle at Houston	3:00
Washington at Arizona	2:00
New Orleans at Atlanta	8:00
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12	
Kansas City at Miami	9:00

WEEK 16

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Minnesota at Detroit	12:30
Denver at San Francisco	1:00
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18	
Atlanta vs. Green Bay at Milwaukee	12:00
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	1:00
L.A. Rams at Chicago	12:00
Miami at Indianapolis	1:00
New England at Buffalo	1:00
San Diego at N.Y. Jets	1:00
Tampa Bay at Washington	1:00
Cincinnati at Arizona	2:00
Houston at Kansas City	3:00
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia	4:00
L.A. Raiders at Seattle	5:00
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19	
Dallas at New Orleans	8:00

WEEK 17

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Arizona at Atlanta	1:00
Buffalo at Indianapolis	1:00
Dallas at N.Y. Giants	1:00
Green Bay at Tampa Bay	1:00
New England at Chicago	12:00
Philadelphia at Cincinnati	1:00
Seattle at Cleveland	1:00
Kansas City at L.A. Raiders	1:00
New Orleans at Denver	2:00
N.Y. Jets at Houston	3:00
Pittsburgh at San Diego	1:00
Washington at L.A. Rams	1:00
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25	
Detroit at Miami	8:00
MONDAY, DECEMBER 26	
San Francisco at Minnesota	8:00

SUPER BOWL CHAMPIONS

Game	Winner	Loser	Score	Most Valuable Player
I	Green Bay (NFL)	Kansas City (AFL)	35-10	Bart Starr, Green Bay
II	Green Bay (NFL)	Oakland (AFL)	33-14	Bart Starr, Green Bay
III	N.Y. Jets (AFL)	Baltimore (NFL)	16-7	Joe Namath, New York
IV	Kansas City (AFL)	Minnesota (NFL)	23-7	Len Dawson, Kansas City
V	Baltimore (AFC)	Dallas (NFC)	16-13	Chuck Howley, Dallas
VI	Dallas (NFC)	Miami (AFC)	24-3	Roger Staubach, Dallas
VII	Miami (AFC)	Washington (NFC)	14-7	Jake Scott, Miami
VIII	Miami (AFC)	Minnesota (NFC)	24-7	Larry Csonka, Miami
IX	Pittsburgh (AFC)	Minnesota (NFC)	16-6	Franco Harris, Pittsburgh
X	Pittsburgh (AFC)	Dallas (NFC)	21-17	Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh
XI	Oakland (AFC)	Minnesota (NFC)	32-14	Fred Biletnikoff, Oakland
XII	Dallas (NFC)	Denver (AFC)	27-10	Randy White, Dallas Harvey Martin, Dallas
XIII	Pittsburgh (AFC)	Dallas (NFC)	35-31	Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh
XIV	Pittsburgh (AFC)	L.A. Rams (NFC)	31-19	Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh
XV	Oakland (AFC)	Philadelphia (NFC)	27-10	Jim Plunkett, Oakland
XVI	San Francisco (NFC)	Cincinnati (AFC)	26-21	Joe Montana, San Francisco
XVII	Washington (NFC)	Miami (AFC)	27-17	John Riggins, Washington
XVIII	L.A. Raiders (AFC)	Washington (NFC)	38-9	Marcus Allen, Los Angeles
XIX	San Francisco (NFC)	Miami (AFC)	38-16	Joe Montana, San Francisco
XX	Chicago (NFC)	New England (AFC)	46-10	Richard Dent, Chicago
XXI	N.Y. Giants (NFC)	Denver (AFC)	39-20	Phil Simms, New York
XXII	Washington (NFC)	Denver (AFC)	42-10	Doug Williams, Washington
XXIII	San Francisco (NFC)	Cincinnati (AFC)	20-16	Jerry Rice, San Francisco
XXIV	San Francisco (NFC)	Denver (AFC)	55-10	Joe Montana, San Francisco
XXV	N.Y. Giants (NFC)	Buffalo (AFC)	20-19	Otis Anderson, New York
XXVI	Washington (NFC)	Buffalo (AFC)	37-24	Mark Rypien, Washington
XXVII	Dallas (NFC)	Buffalo (AFC)	52-17	Troy Aikman, Dallas
XXVIII	Dallas (NFC)	Buffalo (AFC)	30-13	Emmitt Smith, Dallas

1993 NFL FINAL STANDINGS

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Dallas	12	4	0	.750	376	229
†N.Y. Giants	11	5	0	.688	288	205
Philadelphia	8	8	0	.500	293	315
Phoenix	7	9	0	.438	326	269
Washington	4	12	0	.250	230	345

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Detroit	10	6	0	.625	298	292
†Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	277	290
†Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	340	282
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	236	230
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	237	376

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	465	273
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	317	343
Atlanta	6	10	0	.375	316	385
L.A. Rams	5	11	0	.313	221	367

*Division champion. †Wild-card team.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Buffalo	12	4	0	.750	329	242
Miami	9	7	0	.563	349	351
N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	.500	270	247
New England	5	11	0	.313	238	286
Indianapolis	4	12	0	.250	189	378

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Houston	12	4	0	.750	368	238
†Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	308	281
Cleveland	7	9	0	.438	304	307
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	187	319

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	Opp.
*Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	328	291
†L.A. Raiders	10	6	0	.625	306	326
†Denver	9	7	0	.563	373	284
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	322	290
Seattle	6	10	0	.375	280	314

*Division champion. †Wild-card team.

1994 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE DRAFT

FIRST ROUND

1. Bengals: Dan Wilkinson, DT, Ohio State; 2. Colts: Marshall Faulk, RB, San Diego State; 3. Redskins: Heath Shuler, QB, Tennessee; 4. Patriots: Willie McGinest, DE, Southern Cal; 5. Colts (from Rams): Trev Alberts, LB, Nebraska; 6. Buccaneers: Trent Dilfer, QB, Fresno State; 7. 49ers (from Falcons through Colts and Rams): Bryant Young, DT, Notre Dame; 8. Seahawks: Sam Adams, DE, Texas A&M; 9. Browns: Antonio Langham, DB, Alabama; 10. Cardinals: Jamir Miller, LB, UCLA; 11. Bears: John Thierry, LB, Alcorn State; 12. Jets (from Saints): Aaron Glenn, DB, Texas A&M; 13. Saints (from Jets): Joe Johnson, DE, Louisville; 14. Eagles: Bernard Williams, T, Georgia; 15. Rams (from Chargers through 49ers): Wayne Gandy, T, Auburn; 16. Packers (from Dolphins): Aaron Taylor, T, Notre Dame; 17. Steelers: Charles Johnson, WR, Colorado; 18. Vikings (from Broncos): Dewayne Washington, CB, North Carolina State; 19. Vikings: Todd Steussie, T, California; 20. Dolphins (from Packers): Tim Bowens, DT, Mississippi; 21. Lions: Johnnie Morton, WR, Southern Cal; 22. Raiders: Rob Fredrickson, LB, Michigan State; 23. Cowboys (from 49ers): Shante Carver, DE, Arizona State; 24. Giants: Thomas Lewis, WR, Indiana; 25. Chiefs: Greg Hill, RB, Texas A&M; 26. Oilers: Henry Ford, DE, Arkansas; 27. Bills: Jeff Burris, DB, Notre Dame; 28. 49ers (from Cowboys): William Floyd, RB, Florida State; 29. Browns (from Eagles): Derrick Alexander, WR, Michigan.

SECOND ROUND

1. Bengals: Darnay Scott, WR, San Diego State; 2. Redskins: Tre Johnson, G, Temple; 3. Colts: Eric Mahlum, G, California; 4. Rams: Isaac Bruce, WR, Memphis State; 5. Buccaneers: Errict Rhett, RB, Florida; 6. Patriots: Kevin Lee, WR, Alabama; 7. Seahawks: Kevin Mawae, C, Louisiana State; 8. Eagles (from Falcons): Bruce Walker, DT, UCLA; 9. Cardinals: Chuck Levy, RB, Arizona; 10. Bears: Marcus Spears, T, Northwestern (La.) State; 11. Vikings (from Browns through Eagles and Falcons): David Palmer, WR, Alabama; 12. Jets: Ryan Yarborough, WR, Wyoming; 13. Eagles: Charlie Garner, RB, Tennessee; 14. Chargers: Isaac Davis, G, Arkansas; 15. Saints: Mario Bates, RB, Arizona State; 16. Falcons (from Vikings): Bert Emanuel, WR, Rice; 17. Cowboys: Larry Allen, G, Sonoma State (Calif.); 18. Giants: Thomas Randolph, DB, Kansas State; 19. Bills: Bucky Brooks, WR, North Carolina; 20. Rams: Toby Wright, DB, Nebraska; 21. Steelers: Brentson Buckner, DE, Clemson; 22. Broncos: Allen Aldridge, LB, Houston; 23. Raiders (from Vikings): James Folston, LB, Northeast Louisiana; 24. 49ers (from Packers): Kevin Mitchell, LB, Syracuse; 25. Dolphins: Aubrey Beavers, LB, Oklahoma; 26. Vikings (from Raiders): Fernando Smith, DE, Jackson State; 27. Rams (from 49ers): Brad Ottis, DT, Wayne State (Neb.); 28. Lions: Van Malone, DB, Texas; 29. Chiefs: Donnell Bennett, RB, Miami (Fla.); 30. Giants: Jason Sehorn, DB, Southern Cal; 31. Oilers: Jeremy Nunley, DE, Alabama; 32. Bills: Lonnie Johnson, TE, Florida State; 33. 49ers (from Cowboys): Tyronne Drakeford, DB, Virginia Tech; 34. Chargers: Vaughn Parker, G, UCLA; 35. Bills: Sam Rogers, LB, Colorado; 36. Dolphins (from Cardinals): Tim Ruddy, C, Notre Dame.

THIRD ROUND

1. Bengals: Jeff Cothran, RB, Ohio State; 2. Colts: Jason Mathews, T, Texas A&M; 3. Redskins: Tydus Winans, WR, Fresno State; 4. Buccaneers: Harold Bishop, TE, Louisiana State; 5. Chargers (from Patriots): Andre Coleman, WR, Kansas State; 6. Rams: Keith Lyle, DB, Virginia; 7. Falcons: Anthony Phillips, DB, Texas A&M-Kingsville; 8. Seahawks: Lamar Smith, RB, Houston; 9. Bears: Jim Flanigan, DT, Notre Dame; 10. Browns: Romeo Bandison, DT, Oregon; 11. Cardinals: Rich Braham, G, West Virginia; 12. Eagles: Joe Panos, G, Wisconsin; 13. Patriots (from Chargers): Ervin Collier, DT, Florida A&M; 14. Saints: Winfred Tubbs, LB, Texas; 15. Raiders (from Jets): Calvin Jones, RB, Nebraska; 16. Bills: Marlo Perry, LB, Jackson State; 17. Chargers: Willie Clark, DB, Notre Dame; 18. Rams (from Falcons through Colts): James Bostic, RB, Auburn; 19. Packers (from 49ers): LeShon Johnson, RB, Northern Illinois; 20. 49ers: Doug Brien, K, California; 21. Bengals: Steve Shine, LB, Northwestern; 22. 49ers (from Broncos): Cory Fleming, WR, Tennessee; 23. Steelers (from Vikings): Jason Gildon, DE, Oklahoma State; 24. Cardinals (from Packers through Dolphins): Eric England, DE, Texas A&M; 25. Patriots (from Dolphins): Joe Burch, C, Texas Southern; 26. Steelers: Byron Morris, RB, Texas Tech; 27. Chiefs (from 49ers): Lake Dawson, WR, Notre Dame; 28. Lions: Shane Bonham, DT, Tennessee; 29. Jets (from Raiders): Lou Benfatti, DT, Penn State; 30. Giants: Gary Downs, RB, North Carolina State; 31. Chiefs: Chris Penn, WR, Tulsa; 32. Redskins (from Houston: Joe Patton, G, Alabama A&M; 33. Bills: Corey Louchiey, T, South Carolina; 34. Falcons (from Cowboys through 49ers and Broncos): Alai Kalaniuvalu, G, Oregon State; 35. Rams (from Eagles through 49ers): Ernest Jones, LB, Oregon; 36. Oilers: Malcolm Seabron, WR, Fresno State; 37. Cowboys: George Hegamin, T, North Carolina State; 38. Eagles: Eric Zomalt, DB, California.

FOURTH ROUND

1. Bengals: Corey Sawyer, DB, Florida State; 2. Redskins: Kurt Haws, TE, Utah; 3. Colts: Bradford Banta, TE, Southern Cal; 4. Cardinals (from Patriots): Perry Carter, DB, Southern Mississippi; 5. Rams: Chris Brantley, WR, Rutgers; 6. Cowboys (from Buccaneers): Willie Jackson, WR, Florida; 7. Seahawks: Larry Whigham, DB, Northeast Louisiana; 8. Falcons: Perry Klein, QB, C.W. Post; 9. Dolphins (from Browns): Ron Woolfork, LB, Colorado; 10. Cardinals: John Reece, DB, Nebraska; 11. Bears: Raymont Harris, RB, Ohio State; 12. Cardinals (from Chargers through Dolphins): Terry Irving, LB, Nebraska; 13. Saints: Doug Nussmeier, QB, Idaho; 14. Jets: Orlando Parker, WR, Troy State; 15. Falcons (from Eagles): Mitch Davis, LB, Georgia; 16. Oilers (from Vikings): Michael Davis, DB, Cincinnati; 17. Raiders (from Packers): Austin Robbins, DT, North Carolina; 18. Patriots (from Dolphins through Cardinals): John Burke, TE, Virginia Tech; 19. Steelers: Taase Faumui, DE, Hawaii; 20. Broncos: Randy Fuller, DB, Tennessee State; 21. Lions: Vaughn Bryant, DB, Stanford; 22. Vikings (from Raiders): Mike Wells, DT, Iowa; 23. Packers (from 49ers through Raiders): Gabe Wilkins, DE, Gardner-Webb; 24. Chiefs: Bracey Walker, DB, North Carolina; 25. Giants: Chris Maumalanga, DT, Kansas; 26. Oilers: Sean Jackson, RB, Florida State; 27. Bills: Sean Crocker, DB, North Carolina; 28. Cowboys: Dewayne Dotson, LB, Mississippi.

FIFTH ROUND

1. Bengals: Trent Pollard, T, Eastern Washington; 2. Colts: John Covington, DB, Notre Dame; 3. Vikings (from Redskins): Shelly Hammonds, DB, Penn State; 4. Patriots (from Rams through Cardinals): Pat O'Neill, p, Syracuse; 5. Buccaneers: Pete Pierson, T, Washington; 6. Chargers (from Patriots): Aaron Laing, TE, New Mexico State; 7. Falcons: Harrison Houston, WR, Florida; 8. Cardinals: Anthony Redmon, G, Auburn; 9. Steelers (from Bears): Myron Bell, DB, Michigan State; 10. Browns: Issac Booth, DB, California; 11. Saints: Herman Carroll, DE, Mississippi State; 12. Saints (from Jets): Craig Novitsky, G, UCLA; 13. Eagles: Marvin Goodwin, DB, UCLA; 14. Chargers: Rodney Harrison, DB, Western Illinois; 15. Packers: Terry Mickens, WR, Florida A&M; 16. Dolphins: William Gaines, DT, Florida; 17. Steelers: Gary Brown, T, Georgia Tech; 18. Packers (from Broncos through 49ers): Dorsey Levens, RB, Georgia Tech; 19. Chargers (from Seahawks): Darren Krein, DE, Miami (Fla.); 20. Chiefs (from Vikings): James Burton, DB, Fresno State; 21. Jets (from Raiders): Horace Morris, LB, Tennessee; 22. 49ers: Tony Peterson, LB, Notre Dame; 23. Lions: Tony Semple, G, Memphis State; 24. Giants: Chad Bratzke, DE, Eastern Kentucky; 25. Chiefs: Rob Waldrop, DT, Arizona; 26. Oilers: Rod Lewis, TE, Arizona; 27. Bills: A.J. Ofodile, TE, Missouri; 28. Raiders (from Cowboys): Roosevelt Patterson, T, Alabama; 29. Chargers: Tony Vinson, RB, Towson State; 30. Oilers: Jim Reid, T, Virginia.

SIXTH ROUND

1. Bengals: Kimo von Oelhoffen, DT, Boise State; 2. Redskins: Dexter Nottage, DE, Florida A&M; 3. Colts: Lamont Warren, RB, Colorado; 4. Buccaneers: Bernard Carter, LB, East Carolina; 5. Patriots: Steve Hawkins, WR, Western Michigan; 6. Rams: Rickey Brady, TE, Oklahoma; 7. Patriots (from Seahawks): Max Lane, T, Navy; 8. Packers (from Falcons through Raiders): Jay Kearney, WR, West Virginia; 9. Bears: Lloyd Hill, WR, Texas Tech; 10. Browns: Robert Strait, RB, Baylor; 11. Cardinals: Terry Samuels, TE, Kentucky; 12. Jets: Fred Lester, RB, Alabama A&M; 13. Eagles: Ryan McCoy, LB, Houston; 14. Packers (from Chargers through 49ers): Ruffin Hamilton, LB, Tulane; 15. Saints: Derrell Mitchell, WR, Texas Tech; 16. Dolphins: Brant Boyer, LB, Arizona; 17. Steelers: Jim Miller, QB, Michigan State; 18. Vikings (from Broncos): Andrew Jordan, TE, Western Carolina; 19. Steelers (from Vikings): Eric Ravotti, LB, Penn State; 20. Packers: Bill Schroeder, WR, Wisconsin-La Crosse; 21. 49ers: Lee Woodall, LB, West Chester (Pa.); 22. Lions: Jocelyn Borgella, DB, Cincinnati; 23. Bengals (from Raiders): Jerry Reynolds, T, UNLV; 24. Chiefs: Anthony Daigle, RB, Fresno State; 25. Giants: Jason Winrow, G, Ohio State; 26. Oilers: Lee Gissendaner, WR, Northwestern; 27. Bills: Anthony Abrams, DE, Clark (Ga.); 28. Rams (from Cowboys): Ronald Edwards, T, North Carolina A&T; 29. Packers (from Eagles through 49ers): Paul Duckworth, LB, Connecticut; 30. Cowboys (from Rams): Darren Studstill, QB, West Virginia; 31. Bills: Kevin Knox, WR, Florida State; 32. Eagles: Mitch Berger, P, Colorado; 33. Oilers: Barron Wortham, LB, Texas-El Paso.

SEVENTH ROUND

1. Bengals: Ramondo Stallings, DE, San Diego State; 2. Colts: Lance Teichelman, DT, Texas A&M; 3. Redskins: Gus Frerotte, QB, Tulsa; 4. Patriots: Jay Walker, QB, Howard; 5. Chiefs (from Rams): Steve Matthews, QB, Memphis State; 6. Buccaneers: Jim Pyne, C, Virginia Tech; 7. Falcons: Jamal Anderson, RB, Utah; 8. Seahawks: Carlester Crumpler, TE, East Carolina; 9. Browns: Andre Hewitt, T, Clemson; 10. Cardinals: Frank Harvey, RB, Georgia; 11. Bears: Dennis Collier, S, Colorado; 12. Eagles: Mark Montgomery, RB, Wisconsin; 13. Chargers: Zane Beehn, LB, Kentucky; 14. Jets: Glenn Foley, QB, Boston College; 15. Steelers: Brice Abrams, RB, Michigan State; 16. Broncos: Keith Burns, LB, Oklahoma State; 17. Vikings: Pete Bercich, LB, Notre Dame; 18. Broncos (from Packers): Butler By'not'e, RB, Ohio State; 19. Saints: Lance Lundberg, T, Nebraska; 20. Dolphins: Sean Hill, DB, Montana State; 21. Lions: Thomas Beer, LB, Wayne State (Mich.); 22. Cowboys (from Raiders): Toddrick McIntosh, DT, Florida State; 23. Raiders (from 49ers through Cowboys): Rob Holmberg, LB, Penn State; 24. Broncos (from Giants): Tom Nalen, C, Boston College; 25. Chiefs: Tracy Greene, TE, Grambling State; 26. Oilers: Lemanski Hall, LB, Alabama; 27. Bills: Filmel Johnson, DB, Illinois; 28. Patriots (from Cowboys): Marty Moore, LB, Kentucky.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

att.—attempts
avg.—average
C—center
CB—cornerback
comp.—completions
DB—defensive back
DE—defensive end
DL—defensive lineman
DT—defensive tackle
D1—draft pick, first round
f—includes at least one fair catch
E—end
FA—free-agent acquisition
FB—fullback
FGs—field goals
FS—free safety
G—guard
GP—games played
GS—games started
HB—halfback
H-B—H-back
ILB—inside linebacker
IR—injured reserve
int.—interceptions
K—place-kicker
KR—kick returner
LB—linebacker
LCB—left cornerback
LE—left end
LG—left guard
LILB—left inside linebacker
LOLB—left outside linebacker
LT—left tackle
MG—middle guard
Misc.—miscellaneous
MLB—middle linebacker
NG—noseguard
No.—number
NT—nose tackle
OL—offensive lineman
OLB—outside linebacker
OT—offensive tackle
P—punter
PATs—points after touchdown
Pct.—percentage
PlanB—Plan B free-agent acquisition
PR—punt returner
pts.—points
QB—quarterback
R—rookie
RB—running back
RCB—right cornerback
RE—right end
RG—right guard
RILB—right inside linebacker
ROLB—right outside linebacker
RT—right tackle
S—safety
SS—strong safety
St.—State
ST—special teams
SupD1—supplemental draft pick, first round
t—touchdown
T—tackle
TDs—touchdowns
TE—tight end
Tot.—total
Tr.—trade acquisition
W—waivers acquisition
WR—wide receiver
XP—extra points
yds.—yards

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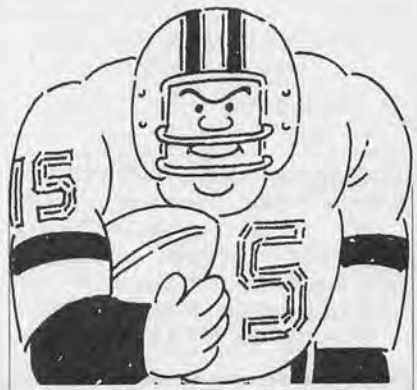

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RB	Barry Foster, Pittsburgh
FB	Keith Byars, Miami

NOTE: WR Slaughter replaced due to injury by Irving Fryar, Miami; WR Reed replaced due to injury by Haywood Jeffires, Houston; TE Jackson replaced due to injury by Eric Green, Pittsburgh; QB Montana replaced due to injury by Boomer Esiason, N.Y. Jets; RB Foster replaced due to injury by Chris Warren, Seattle.

DEFENSE

DE	Bruce Smith, Buffalo*
DE	Neil Smith, Kansas City*
DE	Leslie O'Neal, San Diego
DE	Howie Long, L.A. Raiders†
DT	Cortez Kennedy, Seattle*
DT	Ray Childress, Houston*
DT	Michael Dean Perry, Cleveland
OLB	Derrick Thomas, Kansas City*
OLB	Greg Lloyd, Pittsburgh*
OLB	Cornelius Bennett, Buffalo
ILB	Junior Seau, San Diego*
ILB	Karl Mecklenburg, Denver
CB	Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh*
CB	Nate Odomes, Buffalo*
CB	Terry McDaniel, L.A. Raiders
S	Dennis Smith, Denver*
S	Steve Atwater, Denver*
S	Eugene Robinson, Seattle

NOTE: DE B. Smith replaced due to injury by Sean Jones, Houston.

SPECIALISTS

P	Greg Montgomery, Houston
K	Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh
KR	Eric Metcalf, Cleveland
ST	Steve Tasker, Buffalo

NFC

OFFENSE

WR	Jerry Rice, San Francisco*
WR	Michael Irvin, Dallas*
WR	Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay
WR	Andre Rison, Atlanta
TE	Jay Novacek, Dallas*
TE	Brent Jones, San Francisco
T	Erik Williams, Dallas*
T	Harris Barton, San Francisco*
T	Jumbo Elliott, N.Y. Giants†
G	Nate Newton, Dallas*
G	Randall McDaniel, Minnesota*
G	Guy McIntyre, San Francisco
C	Mark Stepnoski, Dallas*
C	Jesse Sapolu, San Francisco
QB	Troy Aikman, Dallas*
QB	Steve Young, San Francisco
QB	Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants
RB	Emmitt Smith, Dallas*
RB	Barry Sanders, Detroit*
RB	Jerome Bettis, L.A. Rams
FB	Daryl Johnston, Dallas

NOTE: WR Sharpe replaced due to injury by Cris Carter, Minnesota; C Stepnoski replaced due to injury by Bart Oates, N.Y. Giants; QB Aikman replaced due to injury by Brett Favre, Green Bay; QB Simms replaced due to injury by Bobby Hebert, Atlanta; RB Smith replaced due to injury by Rodney Hampton, N.Y. Giants; RB Sanders replaced due to injury by Ricky Watters, San Francisco.

DEFENSE

DE	Reggie White, Philadelphia*
DE	Richard Dent, Chicago*
DE	Chris Doleman, Minnesota
DT	Sean Gilbert, L.A. Rams*
DT	John Randle, Minnesota*
DT	Russell Maryland, Dallas
OLB	Rickey Jackson, New Orleans*
OLB	Reynaldo Turnbull, New Orleans*
OLB	Pat Swilling, Detroit
OLB	Seth Joyner, Philadelphia
ILB	Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay*
ILB	Ken Norton, Dallas
CB	Deion Sanders, Atlanta*
CB	Eric Allen, Philadelphia*
CB	Donnell Woolford, Chicago
S	Tim McDonald, San Francisco*
S	Mark Carrier, Chicago*
S	Thomas Everett, Dallas

NOTE: S Everett replaced due to injury by LeRoy Butler, Green Bay.

SPECIALISTS

P	Rich Camarillo, Phoenix
K	Norm Johnson, Atlanta
KR	Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans
ST	Elbert Shelley, Atlanta

*Elected starter.
†Selected as need player.

TSN NFL ALL-PRO TEAM

OFFENSE

WR	Jerry Rice, San Francisco
WR	Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay
TE	Shannon Sharpe, Denver
T	Harris Barton, San Francisco
T	Erik Williams, Dallas
C	Bruce Matthews, Houston
G	Randall McDaniel, Minnesota
G	Steve Wisniewski, L.A. Raiders
QB	Troy Aikman, Dallas
RB	Emmitt Smith, Dallas
RB	Barry Sanders, Detroit

DEFENSE

DE	Bruce Smith, Buffalo
DE	Reggie White, Green Bay
DT	Cortez Kennedy, Seattle
DT	Michael Dean Perry, Cleveland
OLB	Rickey Jackson, New Orleans
OLB	Darryl Talley, Buffalo
ILB	Junior Seau, San Diego
ILB	Hardy Nickerson, Tampa Bay
CB	Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh
CB	Deion Sanders, Atlanta
SS	LeRoy Butler, Green Bay
FS	Marcus Robertson, Houston

SPECIALISTS

PR	Eric Metcalf, Cleveland
KR	Mel Gray, Detroit
K	Jason Hanson, Detroit
P	Greg Montgomery, Houston

TSN Player of the Year:
Emmitt Smith, Dallas
TSN Rookie of the Year:
Jerome Bettis, L.A. Rams
TSN Coach of the Year:
Dan Reeves, N.Y. Giants

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More Cash Prize Winners Than Any Other National Challenge

Overview

The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge consists of 25-team leagues and 250-team divisions which vie for league and division prizes as well as the overall grand prize. Each entry received is randomly grouped with other entries to form 25-team leagues. Ten leagues are then grouped to form a 250-team division. All teams in all divisions compete for the overall grand prize money. Each team has a 20-player starting roster that cannot exceed a $30,000,000 salary cap. In addition, each team has a 10-player taxi squad. Team owners can make changes to their roster during the season for a nominal charge via a toll-free 800 service. Eight statistical categories are used to determine league, division and overall standings for each team using a Rotisserie®-style ranking system. Each team owner receives a report package every two weeks.

Prize Money

The following prize money will be awarded at the end of the 1994 football season.

Finish	Overall Prizes (all entries)	Division Prizes (250 teams)	League Prizes (25 teams)
1st	***$15,000***	***$1,000***	***$500***
2nd	$7,500	$500	$250
3rd	$5,000	$250	$100
4th	$2,500	$100	$75
5th	$1,000	$75	$50
6th to 10th	$500	$50	
11th to 15th	$250	$30	
16th to 25th	$100	$20	

Plus, $100 will be awarded to the overall leader each week.

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Rotisserie® League Baseball is a registered trademark of R.L.B.A., Inc.

The Sporting News

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Cost To Play

- $79.00 for one entry if it is postmarked by July 23, 1994.
- $89.00 for one entry if it is postmarked by Aug. 13, 1994.
- $99.00 for an entry postmarked after August 13, 1994. All entries must be postmarked no later than Sept. 3, 1994 and received by Sept. 10, 1994. Once the entry has been received by CBC Distribution & Marketing, Inc. (CDM, Inc.), it will be processed within five working days. A personalized Welcome Package then will be mailed to the team owner.
- $79.00 for each additional entry.
- $10.00 for reports to be mailed to a second address.
- $10.00 per address for reports to be mailed every week rather than bi-weekly.
- $1.00 for each taxi-squad switch in which a player with a bye is moved to your taxi squad. For a switch, a team owner moves a player from the taxi squad to the starting team, and moves a player from the starting team to the taxi squad. These moves are unlimited.
- $3.00 for any other taxi-squad switch. These moves are unlimited and are $3.00 each.
- $10.00 for each new player purchase. For a purchase, a team owner adds a new player to either his starting team or taxi squad, and drops a player from the corresponding roster. These moves are limited to 7 during the season.
- No charge to acquire a free agent and drop a player from your team. Seven free agents will appear in **The Sporting News** each week. No more than 3 free agents may be acquired during the season.
- $2.00 for each player transaction before the pro football season begins. These moves (switches and purchases) are unlimited until Saturday, September 3, 1994, 9 PM Central Daylight Savings Time.
- Fax service available on Thursdays. Call for details.

League Formation

- Leagues and divisions are formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 25 teams form a league. 10 leagues form a division.
- Teams may have many of the same players, but no two teams with the same roster will be in the same league.
- If you send in multiple entries, please specify if you would like the teams entered in the same or different leagues and/or divisions.
- If you and your friends would like to be in the same league, please mail the entry forms in together or call for special instructions.

Roster

- Each starting team consists of 20 players who can be from any of the 28 pro football teams and whose total salaries do not exceed the $30,000,000 salary cap. Each team has:

3 kickers	6 running backs	6 wide receivers
3 quarterbacks	2 tight ends	

- A player's position, as listed in these rules for the challenge, has been assigned by CDM, Inc., and will remain the same for the entire 1994 season. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- Unlisted players may be placed on your taxi squad. Their salary will be $750,000. After Week 1, CDM, Inc. will assign unlisted players a position and then they may be placed on your starting team for Week 2. ***Unlisted players cannot be on your starting team for Week 1.***
- Player salaries and positions are set by CDM, Inc. and will not change during the season.
- Each team selects a taxi squad consisting of 10 players. These players are backups for the starting team and may be used during the season to replace a starter for any reason. (Typically the taxi squad is used to replace injured players and players that do not perform as expected.) The $30,000,000 salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply to the taxi squad. If these players are moved to the starting team, however, the salary cap and position rules do apply.

Scoring System

- Each team will be ranked within its league, division and overall by eight statistical categories:

Total Scoring	Total Receiving Yards
Kicker Scoring	Receiving Yards Average
Total Rushing Yards	Total Passing Yards
Rushing Yards Average	Passing Yards Average

- The following formula is used to calculate Total Scoring: (Rushing TDs x 6)+(Passing TDs x 3)+(Receiving TDs x 3) + (Field Goals x 3)+Extra Points+(Other TDs x 6).
- To calculate Rushing Yards Average, your team's total rushing yards are divided by your team's total attempts. To calculate Receiving Yards Average, your team's total receiving yards are divided by team total receptions. To calculate Passing Yards Average, your team's total passing yards are divided by team total completions.
- In each of the 8 categories, teams are ranked from first to last and points are assigned based on these rankings. For instance, if you are in a 25-team league, the team that finishes first in a category earns 25 points, the second place team earns 24 points, and so forth down to the last place team which earns 1 point. This system works for all 8 categories, each of which have equal value. The most points a team in a 25-team league could receive if it won every category is 200 points. The most points a team in a 250-team division could receive if it won every category is 2000 points. In the overall team ranking, the maximum number of possible points is determined by the total number of entries in *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*. Points are re-calculated each week to determine team standings.
- Stats are accumulated weekly for all 20 starting players. The stat week begins with games played on Thursday and ends with games played on Monday.
- All pro football statistics accumulated by the players on the starting team, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's statistics totals. Special team yardage does not count.
- Taxi squad players' statistics do not contribute to a team's statistics totals.
- A player's stats are added to your team's total stats only during the weeks that he is on your starting team. When

a player is placed on the starting team, he begins accumulating stats for your team during the games following the transaction. Previous stats achieved by the player before he was placed on your starting team are not included in your team totals.

- Pre-season and post-season statistics do not contribute to a team's statistics totals.
- Division points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus every other team's in your division's 10 leagues. Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's stat totals versus all other entries' in *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*.

Reports

- Team names, owners, hometowns, and rosters for all teams in your league will be mailed the week of September 12, 1994.
- Bi-weekly reports will be mailed September 14, 1994 and September 21, 1994 and every other Wednesday after that. These reports will include your team summary, league summary, player transactions for all teams in your league, the top 25 division leaders and the top 25 teams overall.
- Roster updates can be compiled from your league's bi-weekly transaction reports.
- For those who purchase weekly reports, the first weekly report will be mailed Wednesday, September 28, 1994.
- Updated league rosters will be provided twice during the season. The rosters of the top 5 teams in your division and of the top 5 teams overall also will be mailed twice during the season.

Additional Rules

- To enter, complete the entry form and mail with check, money order or credit card payment to:

  CBC Distribution & Marketing, Inc.
  2043 Woodland Parkway, Suite 200
  St. Louis, MO 63146

- Entries must be postmarked no later than Saturday, September 3, 1994 and received no later than Saturday, September 10, 1994. Entries with invalid postmarks and entries with valid postmarks but received after September 10, 1994 will be returned. CDM, Inc. is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.
- Telephone and fax entries will be accepted until Saturday, September 3, 1994, 9 PM Central Daylight Savings Time. Call 1-800-568-6288 to enter via phone. Call 1-314-991-1564 to enter via fax. Phone and fax entries must be paid with MasterCard or VISA.
- In the event of a tie, prizes will be added together and divided evenly amongst those who have tied.
- *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge* welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For overseas entries, please add $10 to cover additional mailing costs. If needed, our toll number is 1-314-991-1511.
- Player transactions cannot be made until your team has been entered into the computer database. Teams will be entered within five working days of receipt.
- To make player transactions, a toll-free 800 number and an account number will be provided. Player transactions can be made Tuesday through Saturday.
- Player transactions must be made by Saturday, 9 PM Central Time in order to be effective for the upcoming Sunday and Monday games. Player transactions involving players in Thursday-Saturday games must be made by 9 PM Central Time on the day prior to game day. Once a team has played, the status of every player on that team is frozen until the following Tuesday. No player transactions will be accepted on Sundays and Mondays. Once completed, a player transaction is final and cannot be changed.
- To make transactions, a MasterCard or Visa must be provided to which fees will be billed. Otherwise, payment via check or money order must be received in advance of any transactions.
- There will be a $25 fee for any returned check. Delinquent accounts over 30 days will be dropped from the league with the team's roster frozen at that point. Prizes only will be awarded to teams whose accounts are paid in full.
- You must be 18 years or older to participate.
- No employees of CDM, Inc., The Sporting News, or their families are eligible to play.
- CDM, Inc. is a licensee of The Sporting News Publishing Company, and is solely responsible for enacting, administering, enforcing the rules, and maintaining the integrity of *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*. All decisions of CDM, Inc. are final.
- CDM, Inc. reserves the right to revise any rules to improve *The Sporting News™ Fantasy Football Challenge*.
- NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. To receive a copy of the rules and a one-time team selection entry form void of all services, send a letter-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope to: *CDM, Inc./Football '94, 2043 Woodland Parkway, Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63146.* One request per household. All requests must be received by August 29, 1994.
- Void where prohibited by law.
- Further explanation of all rules will be contained in your Welcome Package.
- If you have questions regarding the rules of *The Sporting News Fantasy Football Challenge*, call 1-800-568-6288.

CDM Fantasy Sports

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NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

The Sporting News

The Sporting News

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Kickers

ID	Player	TM	Salary
1	MURRAY, EDDIE	DAL	2500
2	ELAM, JASON	DEN	2280
3	STOYANOVICH, PETE	MIA	2260
4	ANDERSEN, MORTON	NO	2230
5	HANSON, JASON	DET	2190
6	LOHMILLER, CHIP	WAS	2170
7	ANDERSON, G.	PIT	2140
9	LOWERY, NICK	KC	2100
10	CARNEY, JOHN	SD	2070
11	JAEGER, JEFF	RAI	2050
12	JACKE, CHRIS	GB	2000
13	COFER, MIKE	SF	1940
14	TREADWELL, DAVID	NYG	1930
15	JOHNSON, NORM	ATL	1910
16	REVEIZ, FUAD	MIN	1860
17	CHRISTIE, STEVE	BUF	1830
18	BUTLER, KEVIN	CHI	1800
19	DELGRECO, AL	HOU	1760
20	STOVER, MATT	CLE	1640
21	KASAY, JOHN	SEA	1630
22	PELFREY, DOUG	CIN	1630
23	DAVIS, GREG	AZ	1590
24	RUZEK, ROGER	PHI	1500
25	BAHR, MATT	NE	1490
26	ZENDEJAS, TONY	LA	1470
27	HUSTED, MICHAEL	TB	1430
28	BIASUCCI, DEAN	IND	1430
29	BLANCHARD, CARY	NYJ	1410
30	ELLIOTT, LIN	DAL	1210
31	SISSON, SCOTT	NE	1090

Quarterbacks

ID	Player	TM	Salary
101	YOUNG, STEVE	SF	3750
102	ELWAY, JOHN	DEN	3000
103	KELLY, JIM	BUF	2950
104	MARINO, DAN	MIA	2630
105	HOSTETLER, JEFF	RAI	2510
106	CUNNINGHAM, R	PHI	2490
107	MOON, WARREN	HOU	2240
108	HUMPHRIES, STAN	SD	2210
109	TESTAVERDE, V	CLE	2170
110	HARBAUGH, JIM	CHI	2130
111	EVERETT, JIM	LA	2070
112	MILLER, CHRIS	ATL	2070
113	O'DONNELL, NEIL	PIT	1990
114	RYPIEN, MARK	WAS	1980
115	HEBERT, BOBBY	ATL	1940
116	AIKMAN, TROY	DAL	1780
117	KRIEG, DAVE	KC	1640
118	SCHROEDER, JAY	CIN	1590
119	MIRER, RICK	SEA	1570
120	ESIASON, BOOMER	NYJ	1530
121	ERICKSON, CRAIG	TB	1530
122	BLEDSOE, DREW	NE	1500
123	PEETE, RODNEY	DET	1310
124	WILSON, WADE	NO	1270
125	RUBLEY, T.J.	LA	1200
126	TOMCZAK, MIKE	PIT	1130
127	SIMMS, PHIL	NYG	1130
128	BEUERLEIN, STEVE	AZ	1030
129	GANNON, RICH	WAS	1010
130	MITCHELL, SCOTT	MIA	1010
131	SHULER, HEATH	WAS	1000
132	DILFER, TRENT	TB	1000
133	FAVRE, BRETT	GB	960
134	KLINGLER, DAVID	CIN	860
135	KOSAR, BERNIE	DAL	860

Quarterbacks (cont)

ID	Player	TM	Salary
136	SALISBURY, SEAN	MIN	840
137	DEBERG, STEVE	MIA	820
138	CHANDLER, CHRIS	AZ	790
139	FRIESZ, JOHN	SD	780
140	MONTANA, JOE	KC	750
141	O'BRIEN, KEN	PHI	720
142	KRAMER, ERIK	DET	680
143	GEORGE, JEFF	IND	680
144	BRISTER, BUBBY	PHI	660
145	MCMAHON, JIM	MIN	610
146	EVANS, VINCE	RAI	590
147	WALSH, STEVE	NO	550
148	CARLSON, CODY	HOU	500
149	SECULES, SCOTT	NE	470
150	WARE, ANDRE	DET	470
151	NAGLE, BROWNING	NYJ	460
152	TOLLIVER, BILLY	ATL	420
153	BONO, STEVE	SF	390
154	PHILCOX, TODD	CLE	390
155	TRUDEAU, JACK	IND	390
156	GELBAUGH, STAN	SEA	320
157	WILLIS, PETERTOM	CHI	290
158	MAJKOWSKI, DON	IND	230
159	BUCK, MIKE	NO	200

Running Backs

ID	Player	TM	Salary
201	SMITH, EMMITT	DAL	3750
202	THOMAS, THURMAN	BUF	3300
203	SANDERS, BARRY	DET	3100
204	BETTIS, JEROME	LA	3000
205	WATTERS, RICKY	SF	2800
206	BROOKS, REGGIE	WAS	2610
207	FOSTER, BARRY	PIT	2150
208	HAMPTON, R	NYG	1990
209	MOORE, RON	AZ	1560
210	WALKER, HERSCHEL	PHI	1560
211	WHITE, LORENZO	HOU	1540
212	BERNSTINE, ROD	DEN	1460
213	HARMON, RONNIE	SD	1380
214	BUTTS, MARION	SD	1310
215	BROWN, GARY	HOU	1240
216	WARREN, CHRIS	SEA	1240
217	MEANS, NATRONE	SD	1170
218	JOHNSON, JOHNNY	NYJ	1170
219	METCALF, ERIC	CLE	1050
220	BYNER, EARNEST	WAS	1040
221	DAVIS, KENNETH	BUF	1020
222	HIGGS, MARK	MIA	1020
223	KIRBY, TERRY	MIA	1010
224	BAXTER, BRAD	NYJ	1010
225	FAULK, MARSHALL	IND	1000
226	HILL, GREG	KC	1000
227	FLOYD, WILLIAM	SF	1000
228	MOORE, DERRICK	DET	980
229	GREEN, HAROLD	CIN	930
230	POTTS, ROOSEVELT	IND	910
231	ALLEN, MARCUS	KC	900
232	BROUSSARD, S	ATL	830
233	MUSTER, BRAD	NO	830
234	COBB, REGGIE	TB	810
235	RHETT, ERRICT	TB	800
236	LEVY, CHUCK	AZ	800
237	GARNER, CHARLIE	PHI	800
238	BATES, MARIO	NO	800
239	BENNETT,DONNELL	KC	800
240	NEAL, LORENZO	NO	790
241	PEGRAM, ERRIC	ATL	790

Running Backs (cont)

ID	Player	TM	Salary
242	WORD, BARRY	MIN	780
243	SMITH, ROBERT	MIN	770
244	BYARS, KEITH	MIA	770
245	HOARD, LEROY	CLE	760
246	ROBINSON, GREG	RAI	750
247	ERVINS, RICKY	WAS	730
248	GARY, CLEVELAND	LA	700
249	TILLMAN, LEWIS	NYG	690
250	FENNER, DERRICK	CIN	650
251	THOMAS, BLAIR	NYJ	640
252	VARDELL, TOMMY	CLE	620
253	RUSSELL, LEONARD	NE	620
254	SHERMAN, HEATH	PHI	570
255	WILLIAMS, JOHNL	SEA	560
256	ANDERSON, NEAL	CHI	560
257	MEGGETT, DAVID	NYG	550
258	MCNAIR, TODD	KC	540
259	CARTER, DEXTER	SF	520
260	HOGE, MERRIL	PIT	500
261	BROWN, DEREK	NO	500
262	VAUGHN, JON	SEA	470
263	MILBURN, GLYN	DEN	470
264	WORLEY, TIM	CHI	460
265	DELPINO, ROBERT	DEN	460
266	BAILEY, JOHNNY	AZ	460
267	THOMPSON, D	GB	460
268	BUNCH, JARROD	NYG	450
269	LANG, DAVID	LA	440
270	BELL, NICK	RAI	440
271	CRAIG, ROGER	MIN	430
272	WORKMAN, VINCE	TB	420
273	WILLIAMS, HARVEY	KC	410
274	LOGAN, MARC	SF	390
275	THOMPSON, LEROY	PIT	380
276	GRAHAM, SCOTTIE	MIN	370
277	CHAFFEY, PAT	NYJ	370
278	MCAFEE, FRED	NO	360
279	BENNETT, EDGAR	GB	340
280	MACK, KEVIN	CLE	340
281	HILLIARD, DALTON	NO	330
282	CENTERS, LARRY	AZ	330
283	TURNER, KEVIN	NE	320
284	HEYWARD, CRAIG	CHI	310
285	DICKERSON, ERIC	ATL	310
286	JOHNSON, A	IND	310
287	MITCHELL, BRIAN	WAS	300
288	HEBRON, VAUGH	PHI	290
289	MURRELL, ADRIAN	NYJ	290
290	LESTER, TIM	LA	290
291	WILLIAMS, WARREN	PIT	270
292	NED, DERRICK	NO	270
293	LYNCH, ERIC	DET	260
294	RIVERS, REGGIE	DEN	260
295	LEWIS, DARREN	CHI	250
296	SMITH, TONY	ATL	230
297	LEE, AMP	SF	220
298	GREEN, MARK	CHI	220
299	RATHMAN, TOM	SF	220
300	COLEMAN, LINCOLN	DAL	210
301	LASSIC, DERRICK	DAL	210
302	JOSEPH, JAMES	PHI	200
303	BIENIEMY, ERIC	SD	200
304	GARDNER, C	BUF	200
305	SMITH, STEVE	RAI	200
306	ANDERS, KIMBLE	KC	200

Any unlisted player salary is $750,000

All salaries are in 000's. The player's team is based on the end of the 1993 season. Players not listed must be placed on the taxi squad for Week 1.

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

Tight Ends

ID	Player	TM	Salary
401	GREEN, ERIC	PIT	1620
402	JACKSON, KEITH	MIA	1520
403	SHARPE, SHANNON	DEN	1490
404	JONES, BRENT	SF	1330
405	MITCHELL, JOHNNY	NYJ	1290
406	HARRIS, JACKIE	GB	1040
407	HORTON, ETHAN	RAI	1020
408	MCGEE, TONY	CIN	970
409	JORDAN, STEVE	MIN	880
410	BAVARO, MARK	PHI	850
411	CROSS, HOWARD	NYG	810
412	NOVACEK, JAY	DAL	810
413	JOHNSON, LONNIE	BUF	800
414	DRAYTON, TROY	LA	740
415	KINCHEN, BRIAN	CLE	720
416	PIERCE, AARON	NYG	680
417	HOLMAN, RODNEY	DET	640
418	COATES, BEN	NE	620
419	CASH, KERRY	IND	520
420	THORNTON, JAMES	NYJ	500
421	HAYES, JONATHAN	KC	420
422	COOPER, ADRIAN	PIT	390
423	BRENNER, HOBY	NO	390
424	PRICE, JIM	DAL	370
425	METZELAARS, P	BUF	360
426	SMITH, IRV	NO	360
427	JOHNSON, REGGIE	DEN	360
428	HALL, RON	TB	330
429	ARMSTRONG, TYJI	TB	320
430	JENNINGS, KEITH	CHI	310
431	CARTER, PAT	LA	310
432	BATY, GREG	MIA	310
433	GALBRAITH, SCOTT	DAL	280
434	WALKER, DERRICK	SD	270
435	MCNEAL, TRAVIS	LA	270
436	COOK, MARV	NE	240
437	GLOVER, ANDREW	RAI	220
438	EDMUNDS, F	SEA	210
439	PUPUNU, ALFRED	SD	210
440	WEST, ED	GB	210
441	HALLOCK, TY	DET	200
442	MCKELLER, KEITH	BUF	200
443	WILLIAMS, JAMIE	SF	180
444	WETNIGHT, RYAN	CHI	150
445	NEWMAN, PAT	NO	130

Entries must be phoned, faxed or postmarked by Saturday, September 3rd

Wide Receivers

ID	Player	TM	Salary
501	IRVIN, MICHAEL	DAL	2250
502	RICE, JERRY	SF	2100
503	SHARPE, STERLING	GB	1750
504	CLARK, GARY	PHO	1570
505	JETT, JAMES	RAI	1560
506	DAVIS, WILLIE	KC	1550
507	HAYNES, MICHAEL	ATL	1460
508	REED, ANDRE	BUF	1440
509	RISON, ANDRE	ATL	1420
510	ELLARD, HENRY	LA	1360
511	FRYAR, IRVING	MIA	1350
512	MILLER, ANTHONY	SD	1340
513	TAYLOR, JOHN	SF	1300
514	COPELAND, HORACE	TB	1270
515	MARTIN, ERIC	NO	1220
516	BROWN, TIM	RAI	1210
517	GIVINS, ERNEST	HOU	1130
518	LOFTON, JAMES	PHI	1120
519	MOORE, ROB	NYJ	1100
520	CARTER, CHRIS	MIN	1100
521	MOORE, HERMAN	DET	1100
522	BARNETT, FRED	PHI	1050
523	JACKSON, MICHAEL	CLE	1030
524	STONE, DWIGHT	PIT	1020
525	CARRIER, MARKJ	CLE	1020
526	PROEHL, RICKY	PHO	1000
527	JACKSON, MARK	NYG	1000
528	INGRAM, MARK	MIA	1000
529	JOHNSON, CHARLES	PIT	1000
530	MORTON, JONNIE	DET	1000
531	LEWIS, THOMAS	NYG	1000
532	ALEXANDER, DRICK	CLE	1000
533	EARLY, QUINN	NO	990
534	HARPER, ALVIN	DAL	980
535	HESTER, JESSIE	IND	970
536	HAWKINS, C	TB	950
537	ANDERSON, WILLIE	LA	930
538	GREEN, WILLIE	DET	920
539	CLAYTON, MARK	GB	920
540	BIRDEN, JJ	KC	910
541	SLAUGHTER, W	HOU	890
542	MONK, ART	WAS	890
543	BLADES, BRIAN	SEA	870
544	JEFFIRES, H	HOU	870
545	LANGHORNE, R	IND	830
546	DAVIS, WENDELL	CHI	830
547	CARTER, ANTHONY	MIN	820
548	HILL, RANDAL	PHO	800
549	BRISBY, VINCENT	NE	800
550	SCOTT, DARNEY	CIN	800
551	BRUCE, ISAAC	LA	800
552	LEE, KEVIN	NE	800
553	PALMER, DAVID	MIN	800
554	YARBOROUGH, RYN	NYJ	800
555	EMANUEL, BRET	ATL	800
556	BROOKS, BUCKY	BUF	800
557	JONES, ERNIE	LA	780
558	DAWSEY, L	TB	760
559	SANDERS, RICKY	WAS	750
560	BEEBE, DON	BUF	750
561	LEWIS, NATE	SD	740

Wide Receivers (cont)

ID	Player	TM	Salary
562	MCGEE, TIM	WAS	740
563	MARTIN, TONY	MIA	720
564	TIMPSON, MICHAEL	NE	700
565	PERRIMAN, BRETT	DET	690
566	BROOKS, BILL	BUF	690
567	MARSHALL, ARTHUR	DEN	690
568	WADDLE, TOM	CHI	680
569	DAWKINS, SEAN	IND	670
570	SHERRARD, MIKE	NYG	660
571	BURKETT, CHRIS	NYJ	660
572	WILLIAMS, CALVIN	PHI	660
573	HILL, DREW	ATL	640
574	BAILEY, VICTOR	PHI	640
575	PRITCHARD, MIKE	ATL	620
576	MARTIN, KELVIN	SEA	620
577	GRAHAM, JEFF	PIT	620
578	BARNETT, TIM	KC	590
579	RUSSELL, DERRICK	DEN	580
580	DUNCAN, CURTIS	HOU	580
581	PICKENS, CARL	CIN	560
582	WELLMAN, GARY	HOU	550
583	MCCAFFREY, ED	NYG	540
584	TURNER, FLOYD	NO	520
585	GAULT, WILLIE	RAI	520
586	CRITTENDEN, RAY	NE	500
587	CALLOWAY, CHRIS	NYG	500
588	TILLMAN, LAWYER	CLE	500
589	MCMURTRY, GREG	NE	500
590	OBEE, TERRY	CHI	460
591	MATHIS, TERANCE	NYJ	460
592	WRIGHT, A	RAI	450
593	COPELAND, R	BUF	440
594	ISMAIL, RAGHIB	RAI	430
595	MILLS, ERNIE	PIT	420
596	JOHNSON, VANCE	DEN	410
597	QUERY, JEFF	CIN	410
598	WILSON, CHARLES	TB	410
599	THOMAS, LAMAR	TB	400
600	MORGAN, ANTHONY	GB	360
601	YOUNG, MICHAEL	PHI	360
602	JEFFERSON, SHAWN	SD	360
603	TURNER, ODESSA	SF	360
604	JONES, HASSAN	KC	310
605	CONWAY, CURTIS	CHI	300
606	DREWREY, WILLIE	HOU	280
607	TILLMAN, CEDRIC	DEN	270
608	EDWARDS, A	PHO	260
609	BANKS, FRED	CHI	240
610	COX, AARON	IND	230
611	CARROLL, WESLEY	CIN	230
612	MCCARDELL, K	CLE	230
613	HARRIS, LEONARD	HOU	220
614	SMALL, TORRANCE	NO	220
615	THOMAS, ROBB	SEA	200
616	SINGLETON, NATE	SF	200
617	ISMAIL, QADRY	MIN	200
618	MCDUFFIE, O.J.	MIA	200
619	JONES, FRED	KC	200
620	REED, JAKE	MIN	200
621	HOWARD, DESMD	WAS	200

All salaries are in 000's. The player's team is based on the end of the 1993 season. Players not listed must be placed on the taxi squad for Week 1 and their salary is $750,000.

No Sweat, All Fun! Our computers calculate your team, league, division and overall position each week.

The Sporting News

FANTASY FOOTBALL CHALLENGE

To enter by phone, complete this form and call 1-800-568-6288
To enter by mail, send this form with payment to:
CDM, Inc., 2043 Woodland Parkway Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63146
Entry forms must be postmarked no later than September 3, 1994 and received no later than September 10.
Please note: Another copy of the player salaries will be included in your Welcome Package!

I. Team Owner Information

Name
Team Name
Address
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
Have you played a TSN Challenge before? _____ If yes, enter your account # _____

II. Billing Information

$79 Entry (postmarked by July 23, 1994)	_____
$89 Entry (postmarked by August 13, 1994)	_____
$99 Entry (postmarked after August 13,1994)	_____
Additional Entries Quantity ___ x $79.00 =	_____
Weekly Reports Quantity ___ x $10.00 =	_____
Other _____	_____
TOTAL PAYMENT	_____

Payment: ❑ MasterCard ❑ Visa ❑ Check ❑ Money Order
Credit Card # _____
Exp. Date _____ Signature _____
❑ Yes, please bill my player transactions to this card.

Make checks and money orders payable to: **CDM, Inc.**

III. Starting Team

Pos	Id	Name	Salary	Pos	Id	Name	Salary
K				RB			
K				RB			
K				TE			
QB				TE			
QB				WR			
QB				WR			
RB				WR			
RB				WR			
RB				WR			
RB				WR			

Total Team Salary $ _____

IV. Taxi Squad

	Pos	Id	Name	Salary		Pos	Id	Name	Salary
1.					6.				
2.					7.				
3.					8.				
4.					9.				
5.					10.				

V. Other

- A $10 player transaction credit will be given to anyone who enters *The Sporting News ™Fantasy Football Challenge* and recommends someone who enters *The Challenge*. Please specify the name of the recommended person below:
  _____
- ❑ Yes, I would consider entering another team if additional entries are needed to complete a league. I am under no obligation, however, to do so if contacted regarding this.

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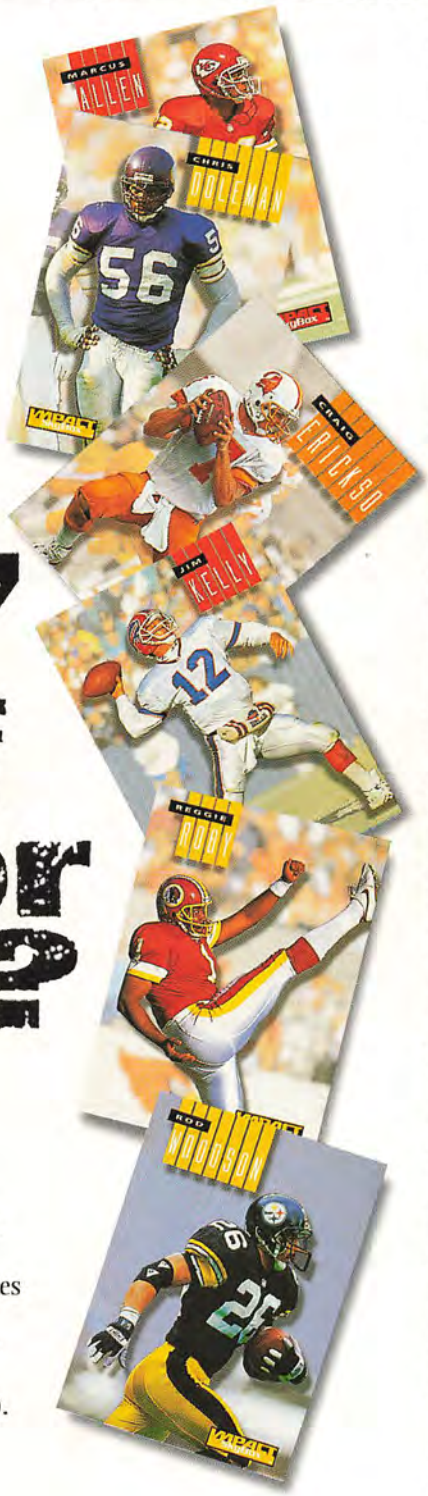
If you don't buy Impact, what kind of collector are you?



It's hard to trash our single series, 300-card issue. It features randomly inserted Rookie Exchange cards (odds 1:350), redeemable for up to the top 29 NFL Draft Picks in pro uniforms. Then there are two special insert sets—Instant Impact '93 Rookies (odds 1:30) and Ultimate Impact Veteran Stars (odds 1:15). Plus a special hologram featuring SkyDisc™ technology (odds 1:330). In comparison, everything else just stinks. IMPACT SkyBox

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Have you ever seen a grown man cry?